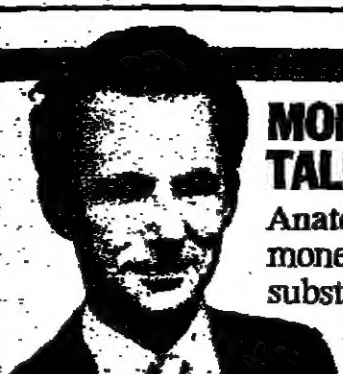




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Dunblane parents watch from gallery as MPs hear arguments for the shooting lobby

Tories step back from voting to weaken gun Bill

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

AN attempt by Conservative MPs to water down the Government's new gun controls, prompted by the Dunblane massacre, crumbled in the Commons last night.

With parents of Dunblane victims watching from the public gallery, amendments that would have excluded single-shot and sporting pistols from the ban outlined in the Firearms Bill were withdrawn as their proposers accepted that they would be overwhelmingly defeated. They promised to fight on during the later stages of the Bill.

But a move backed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats to widen the ban to cover all handguns, including the smaller calibre .22 pistols which the Government has decided to exempt, seemed destined to fail, in spite of last-minute personal appeals to MPs by Dunblane parents and a teacher wounded in the shooting.

As MPs debated the amendment to ban all 200,000 legally-held handguns in Britain — which a few Conservative MPs led by David Mellor, the former Cabinet minister, were lining up to support — the hour leadership announced that it wins power next year it will carry through the full prohibition.

The move ensured that gun control is destined to become an election issue.

Robert Hughes, Tory MP for Harrow West and one of the Conservatives calling for a total ban, said there should have been a free vote. About 100,000 high-calibre guns were being outlawed, Mr Hughes said. "If the Government are happy and prepared to go that far, why not the next logical step in banning low-calibre guns as well."

The campaign on behalf of the

shooting lobby to widen the exemptions to the ban was led by Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP for Westonsuper-Mare, and backed by several Conservatives in their speeches. By withdrawing their amendments in the face of heavy defeats, they have left open the possibility of the issue being considered again at the report stage of the Bill, and in the Lords where Conservative peers seem certain to stage a revolt.

Sir Jerry told MPs that single-shot guns should be retained for sporting purposes. "These guns are unlikely to be selected by a maniac because, being of a single-shot nature, they are quite unsuitable for death and destruction. They are suitable for shooting a target."

Sir Jerry said he was sorry that the Government had "seen fit to draw the line so tightly" and seek a ban on single-shot pistols. Such a ban, he said, would deprive men and women of a sport in which Britain had excelled at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said the Government could not allow such a move. "These amendments would exempt single-shot pistols from the general prohibition, effectively limiting the ban to multi-shot guns. They would allow single-shot handguns to continue to be kept at home. I cannot invite MPs to support these amendments. The Government believes there is no place for handguns in the home."

He added: "Even a single-shot handgun can be used to kill, and they are very easy to carry and to conceal."

Doug Henderson, from the Labour frontbench, supported Mr Howard's refusal to give in to the gun lobby. "I agree with you that a

single-shot pistol of a high calibre is an extremely lethal weapon and has been shown to be that," he said. "If one accepts that action needs to be taken, which includes action to outlaw pistol shooting in clubs, then it would be unacceptable to allow this kind of exemption."

He added: "I don't believe that one can argue for the privileges and the rights of the sports person to take precedent over the risk to the population."

Mr Howard later surprised MPs by raising the possibility that the Home Secretary of the day could act to allow the one Commonwealth Games shooting event involving guns of a bigger calibre than .22 to take place at the Manchester Games in 2002. He said he had the authority under the 1988 Firearms Act to approve an application from organisers to allow the event to go ahead.

But in reply to questions, he accepted that British competitors would not be able to practise in this country for the event. His disclosure was described as "logical absurdity" by Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle.

Sir Patrick Cormack, Conservative MP for Staffordshire South, voiced his unease over the Bill. He said: "Panic legislation is rarely good legislation and although Thomas Hamilton did unspeakable things with the weapons that he legally possessed, Thomas Hamilton is in a sense having his revenge in that legislation, which is going to penalise a large number of law-abiding citizens of this country who have never and would never contemplate doing wrong."

Matthew Parris, page 2
Commons debate, page 10



Eileen Harrild, the Dunblane teacher wounded in the shooting, at Westminster yesterday

Wounded teacher tries to shame MPs into action

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

A TEACHER and parents of children who were shot at Dunblane went to Westminster yesterday to "shame MPs into doing the right thing".

They did not bring placards or petitions, they did not raise their voices. Nine parents joined the relatives of Gwen Mayor, the teacher who was killed, and Eileen Harrild, the teacher who was wounded, in urging MPs to vote for a total ban on handguns.

Mrs Harrild was choking with emotion as she recalled the last moments in the gymnasium. "I had no idea what calibre of guns Thomas Hamilton was carrying on March 13," she said. "It just seems ludicrous that the Government are thinking of retaining .22 calibre handguns in the name of sport."

Rod Mayor, who carried a picture of his wife, said: "To every MP I say: Think of the person you love most dearly — and then think of the 17 families identifying the bullet-ridden bodies of their loved ones. Do we want to risk a tragedy like this one again?"

George Robertson, shadow Scottish Secretary, tried to keep the families' spirits up as they spoke about their lost children in an effort to win MPs round. He was joined by Hugh Dykes, Terry Dicks and Robert Hughes, all Tory rebels.

Before filing into the chamber, they said a prayer to Victoria, Emma, Sophie, David, Hannah, Melissa, John, Charlotte, Emily, Megan, Kevin, Brent, Joanna, Abigail, Michael, Ross and Gwen.

The pro-gun lobby arrived making a great deal more noise and brandishing flags proclaiming: "57,000 shooters are being punished for one man's action."

As Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, got up to speak it was clear that both groups would be united only in their disappointment with the outcome of the vote.

Debt boost for Clarke

A stream of tax receipts from British companies and consumers has given Kenneth Clarke unexpected room for manoeuvre in next week's Budget.

The Government repaid £4.4 billion of its debt last month — twice as much as expected — and economists said that Mr Clarke could now cut taxes and reduce his public borrowing forecast for next year. Page 27

Royal PR quits

Charles Anson has resigned as the Queen's press secretary to become public relations director for Grand Metropolitan, whose interests include Burger King and Smirnoff vodka. He will be replaced by his deputy, Geoffrey Crawford. Page 9

Portillo backs new inquiry into British arms deals

By Arthur Leathley and Michael Evans

A FRESH investigation into Britain's arms export policy looked increasingly likely last night after allegations that a British company supplied weapons to the former Rwandan Government during the genocide of a million people.

The Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, which demanded tighter controls on export licensing after another British company sold guns to Iran in spite of an arms embargo in the 1980s, is expected to discuss the allegations in private tomorrow.

And Michael Portillo lent his support to MPs' calls for an investigation into the Rwandan deals, saying they would provoke "a lot of thinking in Government circles".

Some MPs believe that ministers misled them by claiming that controls had been strengthened. Martin O'Neill, the trade committee's Labour chairman, said: "We have

been told that administration has been tightened up. Yet this story would seem to suggest that there were still serious problems. It would appear that the authorities were not carrying out the work



"I buy one each year from this wonderful little firm in Britain"

that they told my committee a few weeks ago they were doing."

MPs on the committee believe that there are still insufficient measures to prevent British companies breaching arms embargos by exporting weapons and ammunition via third countries. The £33 million of arms allegedly supplied to the former Rwandan Army by an Isle of Man-based company trading as Mil-Tec Corporation Ltd reached their destination via Israel and Albania.

Mr Portillo said: "The question being raised is that even if they don't export the arms from this country, should agents or intermediaries be allowed to be based in the United Kingdom."

Mil-Tec trail, page 2
Investigation plan, page 12
Let Zaire fall, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Belgian ministers deny sex scandal

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and a regional minister were at the centre of criminal investigations into paedophilia last night as the inquiry into last summer's child murder scandal grew.

Officials confirmed that Elio Di Rupo, the Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister, was the focus of a police investigation after media reports linking him to homosexual acts with minors. Mr Di Rupo, 45, who makes no secret of his homosexuality, denied any connection with paedophile crime, as did Jean-Pierre Gaffe, the Minister for Higher Education in the French-speaking region.

The two men were linked in Belgian television reports to an investigation into homosexual prostitution in Brussels. There was no suggestion, however, of any connection with the case of Marc Dutroux, the paedophile kidnapper at the centre of the

crisis that has gripped Belgium since August. However, the inquiry into the ministers' activities was a severe shock for the Government of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister.

Both Mr Di Rupo and Mr Gaffe accused political opponents of mounting a smear

Continued on page 2, col 4



Di Rupo: welcomed the chance to clear his name

Monkhouse has the last laugh over stolen jokes

By Emma Watkins

A MAN collecting £10,000 for returning Bob Monkhouse's stolen comedy routines discovered yesterday that the best gags often have a sting in the tail. After he handed over the missing jokes, he was arrested by police.

The two books of sketches and one-liners were stolen from BBC Television

Centre in July last year and the comedian offered a £10,000 reward "no questions asked" to have them back. Peter Prichard, Mr Monkhouse's agent and a special constable for 14 years, set up yesterday's meeting in his west London office. Mr Prichard said: "We were approached on Sunday night about the return of some personal property. I obviously called the

police." At the meeting, "the books were returned to us, the money was passed over and the police arrested a man."

Mr Monkhouse was thrilled last night. "To say I am overjoyed would be understating my state of mind. I am ecstatic," he said. "My agent told me: 'Your babies have returned home.' It's a bit like winning the Lottery."

A police spokesman said last night: "A £10,000 reward was handed to a man. Officers from West End Central made themselves known and arrested a man for allegedly handling stolen goods. He is now in custody at Bow Street."

Mr Monkhouse is still without his old jokes — they are being held by police as evidence.

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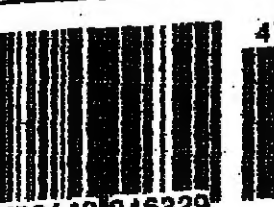
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Lynch law rules as frightened leaders wait for the strangers in town

For good or ill, the Dunblane parents terrorised the Commons yesterday. That may sound harsh, but how else do you describe the sense of duress hanging over the Chamber? Doubtful hackbenchers looked up nervously at the block of empty seats in the Strangers' Gallery which the Secretary of State had reserved for the parents and their Snowdrop Campaign leader.

MPs who ventured to oppose the Firearms Bill prefaced every argument with

condolences to the bereaved. As both front benches combined to ram through the Bill using a "guillotine" to curtail debate, Ministers and Labour spokesmen laced their remarks with insistence that the matter was urgent. Nobody explained why.

During the earlier part of the day, the Dunblane parents had been accommodated in a large Committee Room upstairs, where MPs were invited to see them. As debate on the preliminary motions began, an entire row of empty seats, the width of the

Strangers' Gallery, became apparent: an empty stretch of green leather never normally seen in the mid-afternoon, when pressure for seats from the public is strong. These were for Dunblane parents awaiting the main debate.

This sketchwriter was unaware that lobbying groups, however deserving, were able to book large blocks of seats to be kept for their arrival, sitting together. The effect (perhaps unintentionally) was intimidating.

Introducing the guillotine motion, the Home Secretary,



Matthew Parris, said that extraordinary measures were necessary when legislation "directly affecting the safety and security of the public" was urgently needed. "If ever there were such an issue," he said, "this is it."

If grizzles are any guide, some backbenchers regarded this remark as patently absurd, but it was greeted by a

is framed in order for party to override the conscience and judgment of those on both sides. This sketch awaits a workable definition of the category of measures that ought not to be decided by the conscience and judgment of those on both sides.

Cowed, however, by the coralling of "conscience and judgment" behind one point of view, few scowling backbenchers dared to confront most judging it wiser to cull. Before I left, only Nicholas Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW), had really squared up to

the prevailing wisdom. Whether or not you agreed with him, Mr Budgen's was a fine speech.

At his worst, this MP sounds like an intelligent goat quibbling over his tether; at his best, yesterday, he gathered real force. He said the guillotine was disgraceful; a guillotine agreed between front benches was "the worst sort — a lynch mob" treating "a significant and honourable minority of citizens without due consideration".

Instead, he said, Parliament should ask of the Dunblane

parents whether "in their grief, in their anger, they may be mistaken". I saw a handful of Budgen's colleagues glance nervously up at the Strangers' Gallery. The Snowdrop technique works.

As I left, Mr Howard was explaining that a special dispensation will allow shooting competitions at the Commonwealth Games in 2002 — but British sportsmen will have to practise abroad.

These sportsmen should get on the phone now and book the Strangers' Gallery for the Third Reading of this Bill.

How the Mil-Tec trail led from Sussex to Sark

By RICHARD DUCE, DANNY MCGRORY, IAN MURRAY AND JON ASHWORTH

THE name Mil-Tec Corporation first emerged in a telephone call to a small accountancy firm on the Sussex coast in 1992. From there, the trail of the company which is alleged to have supplied arms to Rwanda leads through a travel agency in north London to the Isle of Man and on to the Channel Island of Sark.

The accountancy firm in Hove is headed by Vinod P. Dhiri, who has run it for the past 20 years, but the call which started everything was made to Ravinder Jain, who had then recently joined the firm.

Mr Jain said the call came "out of the blue" from Anoop Vidayarthi, whom he had met a few times on social occasions. Mr Vidayarthi allegedly told him he represented Mil-Tec Corporation Limited and asked if the firm would be prepared to do book-keeping work for the company. Mr Jain said yesterday: "He told us it was a general trading company and that was it. Nothing ever happened after that. We didn't provide any work for them and we didn't charge anything."

He produced a blue file from a grey cabinet at their brick-built, semi-detached office on the outskirts of the town centre. Inside was a single, hand-written sheet of paper noting an initial contact with Mil-Tec.

Mr Dhiri, who runs the practice with a third partner, Ravinder Singh, said: "We were absolutely unaware that our address was being used. It doesn't worry me because we've done nothing wrong. But we are angry that our name has been used like this."

Mr Vidayarthi, 48, came to Britain from Nairobi. He runs a small travel agency from a first floor office in Vivian Road, Hendon. Associates say he also runs and imports export business from the same address and owns other properties in the block, including private flats and a number of shops, among them a school for aromatherapy.

His family is said to own a large printing factory in the Kenyan capital and Mr Vidayarthi makes regular trips to Africa where his associates in Travelour say he has "limited business interests".

Yesterday after reading reports of the alleged arms smuggling he told staff, "he was going away for a few days". A member of staff at the Travelour company, who refused to give his name over the office intercom, said: "Mr Vidayarthi was aware of the story, but did not make any

comment about it. I don't know anything about guns or anything like that."

Travelour also lists a Mrs Anjana Vidayarthi as a director and advertises that it specialises in organising visas and travel arrangements to Africa.

At his home 800 yards away in Allington Road, a white-fronted, four-bedroomed, detached house — where neighbours say the family has lived since 1989 — the mail lay unopened on the front doormat.

Mil-Tec was registered in the Isle of Man as a company on February 16, 1993. The original directors were John David Clarke and Bernard Galka, partners at the Isle of Man branch of BDO Binder, one of Britain's largest accountancy firms. Binder's address in the Isle of Man is used by Mil-Tec for registration purposes.

"Binder's act in a general way as company formation agents," according to Helen Hanton, head of enforcement of the Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission.

"I found out more about the company from reading The Times today than I did all the time I was a director"

"They keep a stock of companies 'on the shelf' so that if someone wants to set up a company quickly they can respond immediately."

It costs £600 a year to register a company in this way and the main requirement by the Isle of Man authorities is that an annual return is sent on showing the names and addresses of the directors, officers and shareholders.

In the case of Mil-Tec, the annual returns were sent for 1994 and 1995, but the one due last February has not been received and the company may now be struck off.

BDO Binder said its duties had always been limited to secretarial services for the preparation and filing of statutory returns. It had no involvement or control over the management of the company.

In June 1993, two new directors were registered for the company: John Trevor Greer Donnelly, 41, and his father Trevor Robinson, who lives together on Sark.

According to Mrs Hanson they are directors of "literally thousands of companies" in Britain, the Channel Islands,

Ireland, the Turks and Caicos. John Donnelly holds 116 company directorships in Britain alone. "They are called facilitators," she said. "They stand as directors for companies without necessarily knowing what the company does."

John Donnelly is listed as company secretary with RMS Secretaries, a subsidiary of Binder, as associate secretary. The shareholders are Business Management Services Nominees and Business Management Second Nominees, two further companies run by Binder.

Mil-Tec is administered by Business Management Services Nominees, a directly-owned subsidiary of BDO Binder. The nominee companies act as shareholders for whoever the real owner of the company is and keep the name in confidence.

Although island authorities are not able to investigate Mil-Tec at present, they can do so at the request of British customs or police. British customs are waiting to see documents recovered in Rwanda before asking the authorities to obtain a production order requiring Binder to reveal who is behind the company.

Speaking from Sark yesterday, Mr Donnelly said that if he had known what business Mil-Tec was in, he would never have agreed to become a director. "I found out more about the company from reading The Times today than I did all the time I was a director," he said. "I am no longer a director. I told the company secretary to delete my name and that of my father."

Mr Donnelly would not explain why he had allowed his name to be used by a company about which he was so ignorant or why, as company secretary, he had failed to have his name taken off the register. "I am referring all this to my solicitor," he said. "He will speak for me about this in future."

A statement by the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Office said that Mil-Tec was not involved in operations which were regulated by them, but because the island government had been "concerned about some aspects of company formation for some time" it was working on a system to regulate company formation and management activity in order to deter abuse in this area.

The Mil-Tec saga poses an embarrassment to the Manx authorities. The island's reputation received a dent in 1984 when the Isle of Man Savings and Investment Bank was shut-down, losing depositors £42 million.



Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, believes that Britain's role may be to help to search for missing refugees

British artillery unit will go to Zaire to protect our forces

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE battalion earmarked for relief work with refugees in Zaire will be protected by a British artillery unit as well as by armoured vehicles, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, disclosed yesterday.

Under plans ready for Cabinet approval once the reconnaissance party has returned from the region tonight, an artillery battery equipped with 105mm light guns with a range of more than ten miles will be included in the force Britain expects to deploy to Zaire.

Unlike some nations now having second thoughts about sending troops after the massed return to Rwanda over the weekend of up to 500,000 refugees from camps in eastern Zaire, the Government appears convinced there is still a need to send a British force to the region, having received the latest intelligence about the remaining refugees.

In an interview with The Times yesterday, Mr Portillo said: "There has clearly been a significant change. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have left the Goma area and have gone across the

border. But our best intelligence at the moment is that this movement has not spread to the other areas and there's a very large number of refugees unaccounted for. In the southern area around Bukavu where the British troops will go, there are some indications of movement but no suggestion of a mass movement."

"So it's premature for the international community to breathe a sigh of relief and to conclude that there's nothing to be done, because there are hundreds of thousands of refugees unaccounted for and we should assume that they will have been penetrated by the armed militia who may be restraining them from returning home as they might wish."

Although the final decision will be made after assessing the report from the 43-man reconnaissance party led by Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, of the Royal Marines, Mr Portillo envisaged that part of the British responsibility would be to search for the missing refugees. He saw the need for artillery "because the number one priority for me is to make sure our forces are properly protected". He added: "It's better to carry a proper deterrent and avoid the risk that

someone will take you on than to go too lightly armed and risk an aggressor thinking that he can get the better of our forces."

Both 45 Commando Royal Marines and the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment, the two units now on 72 hours' notice for Zaire, are trained to deploy with 105mm guns, which were also sent to protect troops in Bosnia.

Mr Portillo said the force he had in mind would be based on 1,000 "frontline" troops with additional support units. The force would not be insignificant, he emphasised.

"It doesn't necessarily imply a huge force, but it will certainly mean we will have to be properly equipped. The whole deployment would take 21 days, but from an earlier stage 'the first forces will be doing useful work'."

Countries planning to contribute troops to the mission are due to meet in Stuttgart tomorrow to review the force's size and mandate. Raymond Chretien, the Canadian special envoy in Zaire, has said that a multinational humanitarian force was still needed in eastern Zaire.

Spring praises 'positive' Sinn Fein

By AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish Deputy Prime Minister has backed Sinn Fein's stance on the peace process in Northern Ireland and said the republicans were "going in the right direction".

Dick Spring said the Sinn Fein leadership was trying to ensure there was another cessation of violence. A speech by Martin McGuinness, a leading member of the organisation, in Tralee, Co Kerry, was "significant and important".

Mr McGuinness said last week that any new ceasefire could not be treated in the same way as the 18-month ceasefire which ended last February when the IRA bombed London Docklands. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, replied that the Government was not looking for victory over the IRA.

Mr Spring, speaking in Dublin yesterday, said he had no information to suggest an IRA ceasefire was imminent. He said, however, that the republican political leadership was doing all it could to bring one about.

The upbeat and optimistic mood of the Irish Government is at odds with loyalists in Northern Ireland, who are concerned that the Government is shifting the entry requirements into the multi-party talks. Unionists have said that they will leave the talks, which resumed in Stormont yesterday, if the criteria for entry are shifted to suit Sinn Fein.

A group of IRA suspects who claim the Irish Government is detaining them illegally yesterday began a legal battle for their release from prison. The men, including Braxton, were released and rearrested earlier this month after an administrative mix-up. Quinnivan and 13 other men had their cases adjourned until next Monday. Quinnivan's lawyers will apply for bail later this week.

Belgian ministers

Continued from page 1

campaign. Mr Di Rupo said he was the victim of "an infernal machination".

"It is odious that I am being held responsible for acts of paedophilia in my private life... I am not remotely involved in that type of thing," Mr Di Rupo said. However, he added that he welcomed the inquiry because it would give him the chance to clear his name against scurrilous allegations.

Mr de Graef, a member of the French-speaking Christian Democrat party, deplored what he called "atrocious rumours" and said he would defend his honour to the end at any inquiry.

Herman De Croo, leader of the conservative VLD party, urged Mr Dehaene to make a public statement on the affair, which has been heightened by the intense emotion over the Dutroux case.

The failure of the authorities to put an end to Dutroux's activities has helped to shatter confidence in Belgium's institutions. Mr De Croo also called for action over unrelated corruption allegations, made by a senior legal official, against Karel Pinxten, the Agriculture Minister.

State prosecutors yesterday denied reports in the Flemish media that Mr Di Rupo or Mr de Graef were connected with the seizure of pornographic video cassettes in a raid at a Brussels house on Friday. They confirmed, however, that two ministers, whom they did not name, had been cited in evidence in another investigation.

Le Soir, the main Brussels daily, and other newspapers yesterday reported that Mr Di Rupo's name appeared in statements to the Brussels police from an anonymous source. These gave details of the alleged conduct of politicians in the homosexual underworld of Brussels and cited under-age boys. Le Soir said. A spokesman for the High Court confirmed that two ministers' names appeared in an investigation.

"If it is necessary to question them, the normal procedure will be followed," he said. No request had been made to lift the parliamentary immunity of the ministers, the normal preliminary to a formal investigation. Belgian prosecutors said.

Mr Di Rupo, who has been a Deputy Prime Minister since 1994, earned sympathy among colleagues and the media yesterday for his forthright statement in which he acknowledged his unconventional private life.

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Lottery win

A PAUL WHITMAN

LOTTERY win turned a man couple into neighbours who made life a nightmare for the man who used to be a door to them said Wendy and Neil and many other people

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Man whose death led to riot 'robbed couple with knife'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BLACK man whose death in police custody sparked a riot in Brixton last year had held a terrified couple at knifepoint in their bed shortly before his arrest, an inquest was told yesterday.

Kate Short, a 31-year-old primary school teacher, told the jury that an intruder woke her up in the middle of the night by shining a torch in her face. He brandished an 8in knife he had taken from her kitchen before demanding the personal identification numbers of bank cards he stole from her and her husband.

Mrs Short, who has been unable to work since the incident, said that he warned them he would return if they gave him bogus numbers and shouted: "I am going to come back and get you." Mrs Short said: "I was absolutely petrified, I thought he was going to stab us."

The inquest into the death of Wayne Douglas, 25, was told that he was arrested shortly after the robbery. Police chased him through a children's playground and took him into custody.

He was certified dead in hospital about two hours later, allegedly from a heart attack, although his friends and family maintain that he was beaten by police. A week later, a protest outside Brixton police station, in southwest London, led to hours of rioting and £1 million damage.

Sir Montague Levine, the South London Coroner, told a packed courtroom at Southwark Crown Court that he was aware "feelings have been running high", but added that, no matter how well-meaning were the organisations supporting Mr Douglas, the inquest should not become a political forum.

He told the jury, which includes three black members, that any attempts to harass or frighten them or witnesses should be reported to police. One woman juror was excused after she said she did not think she could cope with the case, and two others were allowed to leave after disclosing that they had police con-

nections. Mr Douglas, an unemployed single man living in a hostel in southeast London, left school without qualifications. He was said to have had previous convictions for conspiracy to rob and for burglary, and to have served 18 months in prison.

His sister, Lisa, said police told her of his death 36 hours after it happened. They said that he had been struck on the wrist with a baton to make him drop his knife.

Mrs Short said that she and her husband, Justin, had gone to bed in their two-bedroom maisonette in Brixton shortly before midnight on the night of December 4. Their front door was fitted with Yale and

took bank cards belonging to her and her husband, demanding the pin numbers. "I was in such a panic I couldn't remember it," Mrs Short said. "He became even more angry and agitated. He shouted, 'You know the number.' I blurted out the real number. I was absolutely petrified. I thought he was going to stab us."

Her husband had given the man a bogus number for his bank card. The intruder had said: "I could stab you if you have given me the wrong numbers. I am going to come back and get you." He escaped with about £50, two bank cards and a NatWest cashpoint card, as well as a video recorder, threatening as he left to draw £500 from their accounts.

While his wife dialled 999 from a bedside telephone, Mr Short ran downstairs to check windows and doors, but there was no sign of forced entry. Mrs Short described the intruder as black, aged 20 to 25, with a Jamaican accent - "heavy on the rasta-sounding lilt" - and said he was "very menacing and intimidating", with staring eyes.

She was seized by the corner when she was made aware that the man who had entered the bedroom had died. She said police had informed her later that day. She showed signs of distress while giving evidence, but was told by the coroner to have "no fears about repercussions".

Mr Short, an advertising sales executive, said that during the ordeal he heard the intruder unzip his wallet and at one stage felt him prod him in the chest with either his hand or the knife while demanding the card numbers. "Throughout I felt very threatened and scared he was going to attack... This has had a devastating effect on my wife."

Earlier, Lisa Douglas-Williams said that her brother had suffered depression after the stillbirth of his girlfriend's baby. She said that there was no history of heart disease in the Douglas family.

The hearing continues today.



Short thought she was going to be stabbed

Chubb locks, though only the Yale was locked. "At about 2.45am I awoke to see a shadow holding a torch to my face," she said.

"A small light was in front of my face and I screamed. He told me to get the covers over my head in a loud voice. My husband said to him, 'What do you want?' in an angry manner. The man said, 'Get your head under the cover unless you want to get stabbed. I will stab you, you know.' I could see the knife in his right hand, waving it from side to side. I was in shock."

The intruder had asked if she had any jewellery, to which she had replied that she had none of value. He then



Michael Knighton in the boardroom at Carlisle and, below, heading the ball at Old Trafford during a £40 million bid for Manchester United

Aliens cause football chief's downfall

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE chairman and chief executive of Carlisle United Football Club is stepping down after a newspaper disclosed his belief that aliens spoke to him from their spacecraft above the M62.

Michael Knighton thinks no one will take him seriously after details of what has since been dubbed "a close encounter of the Third Division kind" were published in the *Carlisle News and Star* under the headline "Knighton: Aliens spoke to me". He said:

"I am not prepared to have my nine-year-old son Rory taunted with 'Your dad speaks to ET'. I can see the funny side to it, but there is also a serious side and it is a great shame."

Keith Sutton, editor of the *News and Star*, said he was now starting a campaign to keep Mr Knighton at the club.

"The fact that he sighted a UFO on the M62 doesn't disqualify him from being the chairman. He has done a lot for the city and the club."

Mr Knighton said he had told the story in the strictest

confidence, which the paper had broken. The sighting happened in 1977 as he was driving on the M62 with his wife, Rosemary, and saw strange lights in the sky.

The paper quoted him as saying: "The bright dot became a triangle and shot down from the sky at an incredible speed. It then turned into a glowing disc which hovered above a petrol station at about the height of Nelson's Column. It was amazing." They watched the light for about 30 minutes.

Then, moments before the

shape sped off, he heard a voice inside his head which told him: "Michael, don't be afraid." He said: "I was so excited. It was just the most incredible experience. For seven years after that I spent time UFO spotting. I just wish I could come in contact again."

Mr Knighton, 45, a property millionaire, was previously known for his unsuccessful attempt to buy Manchester United in 1989, when he was photographed juggling a football on the Old Trafford pitch. He failed to secure backers for his £40 million bid.



Vicar scarred by gay lover pledges chastity

A VICAR who was scarred permanently when his homosexual lover slashed him in the face and neck with a scalpel after reportedly seeing "a vision" has returned to work in his parish, vowing to lead a celibate life.

The Rev Nigel Asbridge, of the Holy Innocents, in Hornsey, north London, needed more than 200 stitches after the attack by Steven Barber, 36, a nurse.

Barber was yesterday sent to a secure psychiatric hospital indefinitely after he admitted causing Mr Asbridge grievous bodily harm in December last year. He was suffering from a psycho-

pathic disorder which "interacted with his difficulties in coping with relationships", the Old Bailey was told.

The Rev Rob Harrison, a spokesman for the Bishop of Edmonton, said of Mr Asbridge after the hearing: "His congregation has been very supportive throughout. There is no question he is a practising homosexual. He is committed to the principle that homosexual clergy should aim to lead celibate lives. He admits he has made a mistake and has paid dearly for it."

Mr Asbridge, 38, had tried to disarm Barber when he called at his home,

complaining that the vicar was giving him nightmares and threatening to kill himself. Peter Walsh, for the prosecution, said that Barber then told Mr Asbridge he was going to kill him and struck him with the scalpel on the top of the head. The vicar ran to the door, but in panic could not open it. Barber then slashed Mr Asbridge across the forehead and down the nose and both lips, into the neck. Barber appeared in court yesterday bearing neck scars where he tried to cut himself from ear to ear.

Mr Asbridge was introduced in 1993

to Barber, who had told him he was depressed and wanted someone to talk to. Mr Walsh said: "It developed into an emotional and sexual relationship." But during a holiday in Greece in 1994, Barber became violent towards the vicar. Mr Asbridge had the impression that Barber had Aids and was going to die, so he took a sympathetic attitude, the court was told.

After his arrest, Barber said he had gone to the vicar's home intending to commit suicide. "He said he had a vision and there was no other option but to kill himself," Mr Walsh said.

Life for admirer who turned killer

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A FARMWORKER who killed a subaltern in a jealous rage was jailed for life yesterday. Stephen Webber, a bachelor who was not normally aggressive, had showered Jessie Hurlstone with gifts but she wanted him only as a platoon friend and started to date another man.

Webber, 39, bludgeoned her 30 times around the head with an iron hook at the stables at Buckfastleigh, Devon, where she worked for Richard Frost, the National Hunt trainer.

A jury at Exeter Crown Court found him guilty of murder. Sentencing him to life imprisonment, Mr Justice Rooper said: "However that girl treated you, it was no excuse or mitigation for battering the life out of her in this terrible act of revenge. The very fact of this terrible killing shows there must be in you a capacity for horrible violence."

Just three weeks before her death, Miss Hurlstone, 27, had told her mother Caroline and stepfather: "I'm very happy. I'm enjoying my life at the stables where she had worked for five years. Outside court, Mr Hurlstone said he was discussing with Frost family the possibility of naming a race after his daughter at

the Devon and Exeter racecourse.

Mr Hurlstone said: "She had found a job that for her was paradise on earth. She lived with horses night and day, and was a very accomplished rider."

The court had been told how Webber, became possessive and angry when Miss Hurlstone began seeing James Pearce, 49, in the fortnight before she was killed. On the night of her death she had spent an evening in the pub with Mr Pearce. Webber broke into her caravan through the window and bludgeoned her to death.



Jessie Hurlstone: race may be named after her

Murderer escapes through window

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MURDERER serving a life sentence for killing a young policeman was on the run yesterday after escaping from a secure psychiatric ward with the help of an accomplice.

Peter Loveday, 38, was jailed in 1979 after battering to death PC Christopher McDonald, 19, in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, as he fled from an attempted burglary. At the time of the murder he was on the run from borstal.

Kent police said yesterday that Loveday had escaped from the Crofton Clinic, part of Bealey Hospital in south-east London. He was not considered dangerous but the public should not approach him.

As the hospital began a security review, it became clear that the escape was carefully planned. Senior staff said Loveday had pretended to go for a bath late on Sunday night. He had locked himself in the bathroom and jammed the lock mechanically, or with superglue, so that it could not be over-riden. He had switched on a radio and ran the taps so that nurses believed there was nothing wrong.

The noise masked the work of an accomplice, who was

making an escape route through the reinforced window of the ground floor bathroom. Loveday crawled through the 3ft square gap, dropped to the ground and climbed over a 10ft perimeter fence with a ladder provided by the accomplice. Staff believe the two then escaped in a car.

Last night Stephen Fim, director of nursing at the hospital, said the escape "was very well planned with outside help". Security would be reviewed.

He said the 15-bed ward was graded as a medium secure unit, which meant that the exits were locked and there were additional measures such as the reinforced windows. The security measures met Home Office standards but the ward was not meant to be escape-proof as the patients were not considered dangerous.

Loveday had been in the ward for about a year after being transferred from another hospital. He had been moved from prison because it was thought he might harm himself. Mr Fim said that while he was in the ward, Loveday had not caused any problems or been violent.

Lottery win ruined life for neighbours

By PAUL WILKINSON

A LOTTERY win turned a pleasant couple into neighbours who made life a nightmare, the man who used to live next door to them said yesterday. Wendy and Neil Norris annoyed other people

in their quiet residential street with late-night drinks parties after Mrs Norris, a British Airways stewardess, won almost £350,000 last year.

Finally, just before bonfire night last year, her husband fought with Adam O'Donoghue, who lived next door in Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, over some noisy fireworks. In the struggle Norris thrust a beer glass in his face.

The attack left Mr O'Donoghue, 30, a purchasing controller, scarred from a five-inch wound. He still needs treatment for the injury. Yesterday Norris, a warehouse manager, pleaded guilty at Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, to unlawful wounding. He will be sentenced on Friday. He had

pleaded not guilty to an alternative charge of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The charge was ordered to lie on file. Norris was released on conditional bail while pre-sentence reports are prepared.

No evidence was given during the 15-minute hearing but after the case was adjourned Mr O'Donoghue, a father of two, described how Norris had been a pleasant neighbour. "After they won the lottery he just became worse and worse. They used to stay up late drinking but after they won all that money they were at it every night."

Mr O'Donoghue has since moved to Accrington, Lancashire. The Norrises have since bought a bungalow in

Fallsforth, Greater Manchester.

On November 3 last year Mr Norris began letting off mortar-type fireworks. Mr O'Donoghue's wife, Justine, 26, complained about the noise which was upsetting the couple's twins, James and Mollie, aged three.

Mr O'Donoghue said: "He bought these huge fireworks for about £30 each just to show off. They were going off right outside the twins' bedroom and they started screaming. I went upstairs to calm them down and Justine went to complain. As I came back down the stairs Norris was hanging on the front windows. I went out to see what was wrong and he started acting violently."

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Prescott defends fund for Blair, but fails to declare his own

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT, who yesterday defended the secret £500,000 fund set up to pay Tony Blair's office expenses, has a similar private account, it was disclosed last night.

Mr Prescott denied in a BBC radio interview that he was embarrassed by the revelation of the hundreds of thousands of pounds that have poured into Mr Blair's office in undisclosed donations.

However, he omitted to mention the John Prescott Campaign Research Trust, which *The Times* has learnt is an important financial contributor to his Deputy Labour Leader's office. The names of the donors are a closely guarded secret. Even Mr Prescott's closest aides do not know how much money is in the account, a "blind trust" in which the identity of the donors is concealed to prevent accusations of cash for favours.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, also receives financial assistance towards his

office costs from the Industrial Research Trust, a third blind fund operated by the Labour Party. The blind accounts were set up by the Labour leadership after taking advice from barristers.

It had been reported that Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards who approved the formation of the accounts, was planning to refer the trusts to the Commons Privileges Committee. Lord Nolan, who was appointed by John Major to monitor standards in public life, yesterday said the issue should be investigated after the general election.

Party political funding was not covered by the remit for his committee but Lord Nolan told *Classic FM*: "Aspects of it clearly would be, because if you're paying money to a party in return for favours, that is by any reckoning misconduct of the kind which is up to us to talk about."

Lord Nolan said that it

would not be wise to examine it now. "We have operated as an all-party, or as I prefer to say, a non-party committee, so we think that after the election will be the time to look at it."

Labour publishes the names of donors who give more than £5,000 to party funds. But it has waived the rule for the office costs of Mr Blair, Mr Prescott and Mr Brown. Officials said yesterday that identical accounts were in place under John Smith's leadership.

Mr Prescott, interviewed on Radio 4's *The World at One*, said that there was a difference between donations to the party and individual MPs. "It is crucially important that the leader is not aware of any funding contributions coming in to his actual office."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, said: "We have always taken the view that people have the right to privacy if they wish to offer funds to political parties."

Ex-boxer who saves babies by giving blood

By Shirley English

A FORMER boxing champion is the only man in Scotland who naturally produces an antidote to a rare disease which is fatal to babies. For the past ten years, doctors in Glasgow have been taking blood from Frank O'Donnell, 57, from Castlemilk, Strathclyde, to make an anti-D vaccine against haemolytic disease.

The disease occurs when mothers and babies have incompatible blood groups which lead the mother's body to reject the foetus. So far Mr O'Donnell's blood, in which anti-D antibodies occur naturally, has saved around 20,000 babies. Yesterday, as he gave his 400th pint in ten years, he met some of those who he helped to keep alive at Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow.

Dianne Cook, whose son, Ryan Gregory, was treated last week, said: "Frank is a champion life-saver. My baby would not be alive without him."

It was a serious accident almost 30 years ago which gave Mr O'Donnell the ability



Frank O'Donnell with Ryan Cook, whose life he saved

to produce the vital antibody. He was working as a crane driver in 1968 when he fell 45 feet. He is O Rhesus negative, but he lost so much blood after the fall that the hospital ran out of supplies and had to give him Rhesus positive blood.

Mr O'Donnell said: "It was a case of kill or cure. In time, the Rhesus positive transfusion caused me to produce the anti-D antibody naturally."

The father of five, who has nine grandchildren, added: "I believe I was saved after the accident for a reason. The reason was that my blood can save babies' lives. I never miss giving my pint."

CPS considers case against editor's wife

Police investigating allegations of theft and handling stolen goods against Anita Monk, wife of *The Express* deputy editor Ian Monk, yesterday passed the papers to the Crown Prosecution Service. The move came as Richard Addis, the Editor, confirmed he was holding an inquiry into the affair, which centres on allegations that a woman tried to sell a pre-publication copy of Allan Starkie's biography of the Duchess of York, *Fergie: Her Secret Life*.

Chief Inspector Ken Wise confirmed that Mrs Monk, 52, from Fulmer, Buckinghamshire, was not required to answer police bail at Uxbridge police station yesterday. "The case is still being investigated. It is a complicated issue and the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service is being sought," he said. "Depending on whatever their advice is, she will or will not have to come back at some date in the future."

Last month Mr Addis and Andrew Marr, Editor of *The Independent*, announced a joint initiative to raise ethical standards in journalism. Sources at *The Express* confirmed Mr Addis was deeply embarrassed by events. Mr Addis said yesterday: "Ian Monk is still deputy editor. He is still working here and he is still in the building. We can say nothing about the outcome of our inquiries into the events of the last few days until they are all concluded."

IRA ambush foiled

An IRA landmine ambush designed to kill members of the security forces was foiled at the weekend, police in Londonderry said yesterday. An RUC spokesman said officers uncovered a command wire that was to be used in the attack on the outskirts of the city, less than a mile from the border with the Irish Republic. Two men were being questioned last night.

Widow wins damages

A fireman's widow who saw her husband fall 100ft to his death when a faulty ladder collapsed at a training session won six-figure compensation at the High Court yesterday. Lesley Taylor, 35, of Newquay, has suffered post-traumatic stress disorder since the death of her husband Stephen, 31, in 1990, and sued for negligence. Cornwall County Council admitted liability.

Convictions quashed

A man awarded £50,000 after the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad handcuffed him and put a plastic bag over his head during interviews had his convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal. Derek Treadaway, 51, was jailed for 15 years by Leicester Crown Court on March 10, 1983, for robbery and conspiracy to rob. His case was referred to the appeal court after the award of damages on July 28, 1994.

Brady loses privacy bid

Ian Brady, the Moors murderer, failed in an attempt at the Court of Appeal to challenge *The Sun's* right to publish a photograph of him taken with a telephoto lens at Ashworth psychiatric hospital, Merseyside. The judges upheld a decision by the Press Complaints Commission that publication did not warrant censure and rejected Brady's application for permission to seek a judicial review.

Best novels reread

Beryl Bainbridge's book *Every Man for Himself* has been shortlisted in the best novel category of the Whitbread Prize, along with the book that beat her to the Booker Prize last month, Graham Swift's *Last Orders*. Seamus Deane, whose *Reading in the Dark* was initially a favourite for the Booker, was placed on the Whitbread's First Novel Award shortlist.

Mr Andrew Barclay was not Governor of Whitmoor Prison at the time of the breakout of IRA prisoners in 1994 (report, November 4); he had moved to another post five months before that incident.

The RSPCA spent £6,292,000 on fundraising in 1995, and 9.51 per cent of annual income on administration. We regret the incorrect figures in a report in some editions of August 23.

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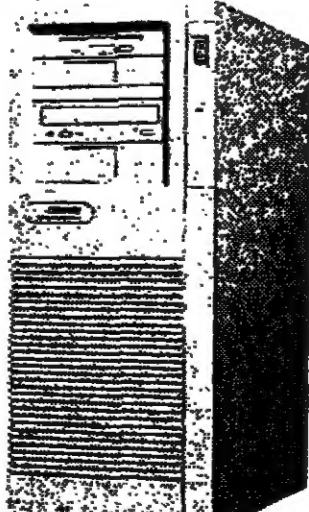


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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 1996

Police use New York strategy to get crime off streets

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND YARD has launched a "zero tolerance" campaign to clear away beggars, drunks, pickpockets and vandals from some of London's roughest streets.

Yesterday the first of 25 officers who make up a special team under Operation Zero Tolerance took to the streets around King's Cross. Another operation is under way in south London and the Yard is also planning to test a technique developed in New York of using computers to identify and target crime hotspots.

A team of officers led by Brian Hayes, the Deputy Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, spent five days in New York earlier this year when they examined a "zero tolerance" policing revolution launched by Bill Bratton, the New York Police Commissioner at the time.

Crime fell substantially as Mr Bratton's officers were told to refuse to tolerate any offences, no matter how minor. He argued that checking up on petty offenders often provided intelligence on more serious crime.

As the King's Cross team mustered yesterday, Superintendent Ken Duncan said: "The message is that antisocial behaviour is not acceptable. No crime, no matter how trivial, will be tolerated in the King's Cross area." He said people should not be subjected to drunks, vandals, addicts and prostitutes.

Mr Duncan said that petty crime made people feel the area was degenerating and getting rid of the crime would make local people feel better and safer. Police will not necessarily arrest all offenders, but sometimes warn them off or see them out of the area.

The operation will run until Christmas. An anti-drug drive is being started by British Transport Police at the station.

Yesterday police in south London began extending an operation undertaken last month when a dozen officers concentrated on an 800-yard stretch of Peckham High Street in an attempt to move crack cocaine dealers and restore public confidence. Officers have been told to enforce minor laws and curb drunks, cycling on the footways and obstruction by traders. They have been told to report litter and graffiti to the local authority as well as monitoring pubs and clubs.

In the first few weeks police made 30 arrests and yesterday Detective Chief Inspector John Goode said that drug dealing in the area had stopped.

Leading article, page 17

Trainspotters try new line to shed nerdy look

By Jonathan Prynn and Damian Whitworth



Traditional look: Alan Worthington at Clapham Junction in anorak, woolen hat and sweater

A NEW image for rail enthusiasts was launched yesterday. They are fashionable, they are romantic and they are definitely not the sort of people who follow the herd.

A £20,000 campaign to free them from ridicule invokes the names of famous enthusiasts such as Rod Stewart, Cher, Jools Holland and Victoria Wood. It has even commissioned designs for a modern outfit to replace the classic trainspotter's anorak.

However, the fashion idea was on the wrong track for spotters standing in the teeth-chattering chill at the end of platform nine at Clapham Junction yesterday. Their immediate response was: "What's wrong with an anorak?"

The campaign has been organised by the National Railway Museum in York. Jo Beckerley, a spokeswoman, said they wanted to highlight the fact that there was a wide range of "normal" people with a healthy interest in trains, heavily outnumbering the obsessive spotters. Celebrities interested in trains are being invited to back the project — and those who don't give support may be "outed" as closet enthusiasts.

"We are saying that not all railway fans are the same

they are not all sad, they do not all stand at the end of platforms," she said. "There is glamour and romance there. Think of the Orient Express, think of *Brief Encounter* — goodness, if you don't cry at that, you've no heart."

The campaign will include posters, a detailed social survey of Britain's two million enthusiasts — and the new fashion designs, which were

4 If you hit balls into holes, that's socially acceptable, but if you watch trains, you are a head case 9

said to combine the Britpop look with practical needs such as big pockets.

Murray Brown, co-editor of *Rail Express* magazine, said the image problem was very unfair: "If your hobby is hitting balls into holes you can't see, or sitting by the river in the rain catching fish, that is socially acceptable. But if you stand at Crewe station watching trains, you are branded as a head case."

The clothes designers for the museum travelled to Paris fashion shows to research the latest materials, using bright colours to make them more attractive to young people. The designs, launched initially as limited edition outfits for the Sindy and Paul dolls, are to be featured in style magazines. Shirazee McCormack, one of the designers, said: "The jackets were influenced by the Mod parka but we have done it in a very bright orange to increase visibility."

Over at Clapham Junction, Alan Worthington, 37, from Southall, sported a heavy-duty industrial Alexander anorak. Not so much a garment as a mobile home, it holds notebooks, pens, timetables, camera, binoculars, gloves and sandwiches. He also wore an Arran sweater, bright red woolly hat and sunglasses.

He said: "I really don't care if people poke fun and call me an anorak, that's up to them. I can give as good as I get. But there's no need for it. Just because we break the norm a bit, people don't understand us. What's wrong with standing on a station? It's better than beating up grannies. Hang on a minute, was that the 59?"



The new line: the design features bright colours with elements of the Paris fashions and Britpop

User's guide to a life without TV

By Carol Midgley

A NEW publication for people who yearn for life without the curse of television was launched outside Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The White Dot is a newsletter which argues that the population should be "meeting people and falling in love" during their leisure time rather than staring at an electronic box. It claims that it reflects increasing concern about the damaging effects of too much television.

David Burke, its editor, a computer analyst from Brighton, said he had already received 40 letters of support. Statistics suggest 1 per cent of British households have no television in a population of 50 million. That could be 500,000 people. I think they are out there. They just don't know anyone else like them.

He added: "We are not against culture. We are just against sitting around staring at a piece of furniture for eight years of your waking life. I don't want people to have a life of the mind. I just want them to have a life. Children who watch more than four hours a day have been shown to be withdrawn and distant from their peers and more likely to think that life is meaningless."

□ *The White Dot* (PO Box 2166, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3LR; £10 for one year)

If Canada has its way seal pup coats will be back in the shops shortly.

About 75% of the 268,921 seals killed in Canada last spring were seal pups, just days or weeks old. Many of them were "whitecoat" or "blueback" baby seals whose pelts are valued in the fur trade. The EU has banned the importation of these pelts, but now the international fur dealers are working behind the scenes to have this ban lifted. MP's and EuroMP's are already resisting this pressure, now we need your help.

S.O.S. Sign On for Seals - add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack. FREEPHONE today 0500 18 18 18. Expose Canada's Shame.

"Source: 1995, 1996 Seal Quota Report - International Fur Trade Council, May 31, 1996. "Source: 1995, 1996 Seal Quota Report - International Fur Trade Council, May 31, 1996."



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£30m 'jambuster' plan to keep Britain moving

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

SCHEME to control the flow of cars and lorries on roads, diverting traffic before they form, could be working within three years, the Government has announced yesterday for a ground-breaking version of air traffic control, with information centred on a single road, diverting vehicles away from congested routes to clear roads. Private companies being asked to submit proposals on how to set up, and operate the £30 million scheme.

The Government admitted, with traffic expected to be by 2025, drivers are likely to see the back of traffic jams. John Watts, the transport Minister, said: "I believe we have found a way to solve the congestion problem and I believe we will." Three regional centres will be set up to control the movement of cars, lorries and buses along 6,500 miles of motorway and trunk roads across the country. Each will be linked with sensors to detect when traffic is building up and to send out warnings on roadside signs and alert local radio stations, suggesting alternative routes. Updates will be by the road, but how much information drivers get will be determined by their willingness to accept it. All motorists will be able to see the roadside electronic signs and listen to radio broadcasts, but if they want to

receive more detailed information, they will have to pay extra.

Mr Watts sees the scheme becoming a sophisticated travel guidance system, so that drivers can switch from road to rail or air if they believe they can speed up their journeys. Drivers who discovered the road ahead was blocked could key into an onboard computer to find their nearest rail station with parking and services to their destination, allowing them to abandon the car and take the train. Those who acted early could find out if their route was congested before they set off by calling up information from one of the three regional centres.

Lawrie Haynes, chief executive of the Highways Agency,

said: "We want to monitor conditions more effectively and to improve the quality of information passed on to the motorist. We want to give advance warning of congestion, more reliable journey times and less frustration."

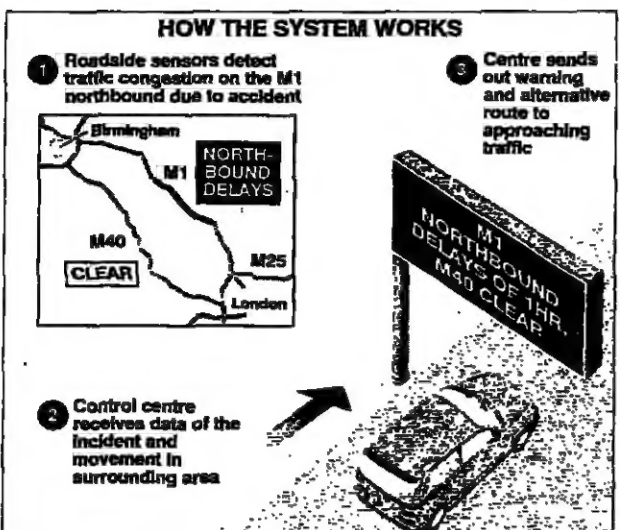
The Government, which is instigating the scheme under the private finance initiative, has given interested companies until March to make suggestions. The busiest routes would be covered first and the Highways Agency has already identified those on which the biggest benefits would be felt.

Doubts persist that even such a sophisticated information system as that envisaged will be able to deal with projected traffic levels, particularly at a time when spending on new roads has been almost eliminated by government cuts. Mr Haynes said the roads system was an asset that would have to work harder to cope with increased traffic.

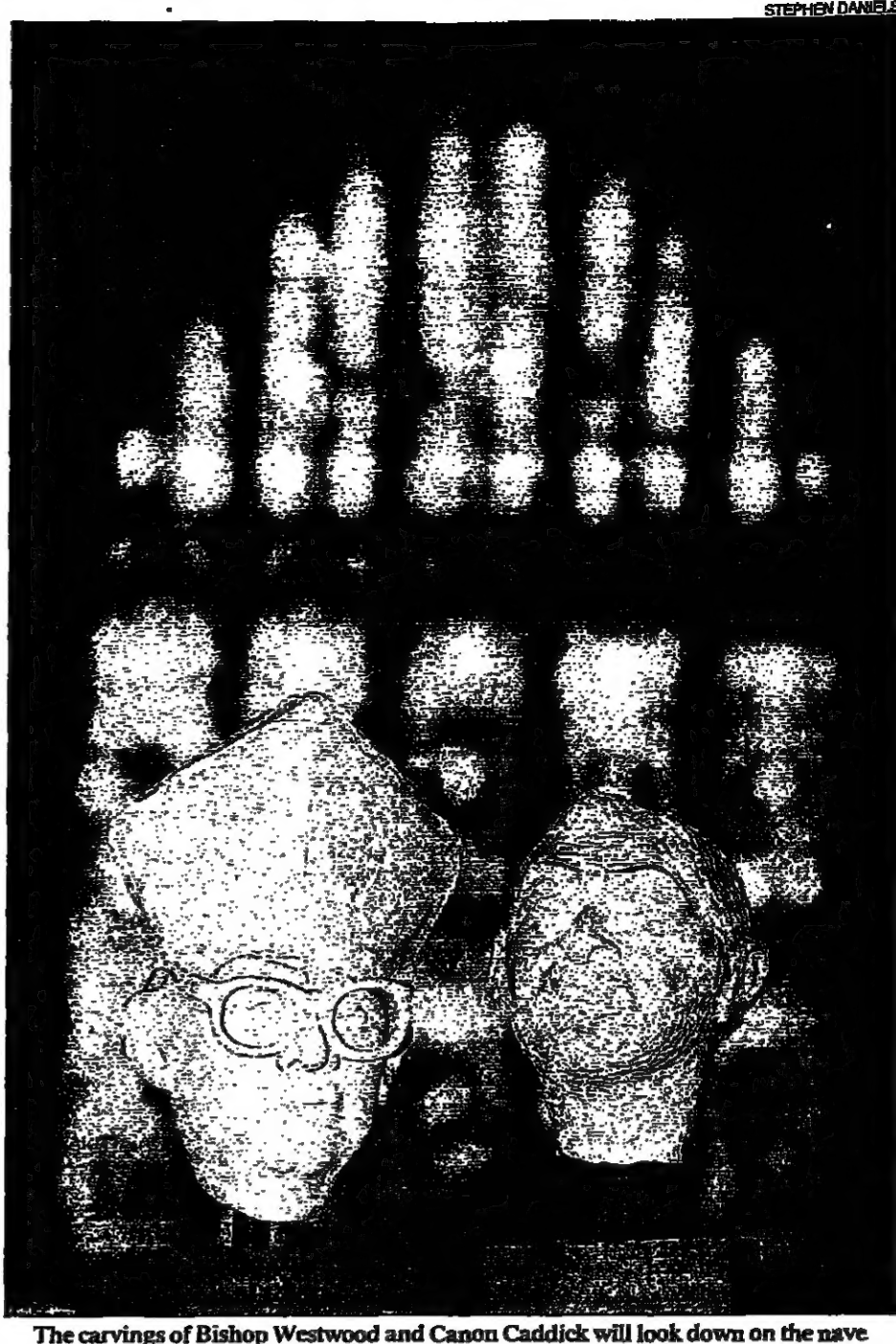
The new scheme is designed to that end. Drivers travelling from Kent on the M20, for example, along the busiest network to the Midlands, could be told in advance that a blockage on the M40 made the M1 a better bet for the trip; or warned that there were hold-ups on the M25, allowing drivers to decide which would be the best direction to drive round the circular motorway.

At the moment, the only way drivers can be sure of finding out about traffic jams ahead is to subscribe to TrafficMaster, the privately owned motorway information system that has 2,500 sensors placed on bridges over thousands of miles of motorway. The nationwide system costs £149 to install and there is a £110-a-year line rental. A cheaper system that provides information on conditions up to ten miles ahead costs £79.99.

Some carmakers are building in computerised route-finding devices that could work well with the new early warning system. Vauxhall already offers TrafficMaster as an option, while BMW and Ford are among the first to put route-finders in their cars.



Leading article, page 17



The carvings of Bishop Westwood and Canon Caddick will look down on the nave

Church asks for millions to save heritage

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Church of England is seeking up to £50 million from the Government to save its historic buildings for the next millennium.

Parishioners are now paying an annual repair bill of £100 million, but they are also being asked to pay more than ever before towards clergy stipends. This means that the annual round of jumble sales, fairs and coffee mornings is no longer enough.

Nearly 13,000 of the Church of England's buildings are listed as of special architectural or historical interest, attracting 30 million visitors a year. Forty per cent of grade-one listed buildings are ecclesiastical.

English Heritage is giving about £11 million a year in grants for repairs to parish churches and chapels, and £3.9 million to cathedrals. The Heritage Lottery Fund has also given nearly £10 million to historic places of worship. But in 1993, the VAT alone on repairs to listed churches and cathedrals was £16 million.

Yesterday a new report, *Developing the Partnership between Church and State over the ecclesiastical heritage*, said that only the Government had the means to convert the nation's love of church buildings into material support.

One problem is that populations shifts in areas such as Suffolk have left some of England's finest churches in the hands of tiny rural communities. In central Manchester, large Victorian churches have been left unattended as people moved to the suburbs.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "The Church remains committed to its key role in caring for this heritage. Additional public funding is, however, essential if they are to continue to speak strongly of spiritual values to the nation in the next millennium."

The initiative was not born of crisis or desperation, he said. Many churches were now in better repair than ever. But after a 25-year period when 470 new churches had opened, a disproportionate burden was falling on small congregations. Talks are to be held between officials of the Heritage Department and church officials led by Philip Mawer, secretary-general of the General Synod.

Virginia Bottomley, Heritage Secretary, said: "The Government is committed to working with the Church to secure the preservation of England's ecclesiastical heritage for future generations. I believe more can be achieved."

Living gargoyles get court backing

By Robin Young

IT IS ecclesiastically acceptable to caricature living clergymen as gargoyles, a church court decided yesterday.

Judge Coingsby, QC, Chancellor of the diocese of Peterborough, released an 87-page judgment yesterday settling a dispute that has riven the congregation of St Peter's in Oundle, Northamptonshire.

The dispute centred on a plan proposed by the local schoolteacher to install two 6in-high heads of the former Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev Bill Westwood, and the recently retired vicar of the parish, Canon Lloyd Caddick, atop two 14ft pillars in the nave. Yesterday's judgment followed a seven-hour consistory court hearing held in the church last month.

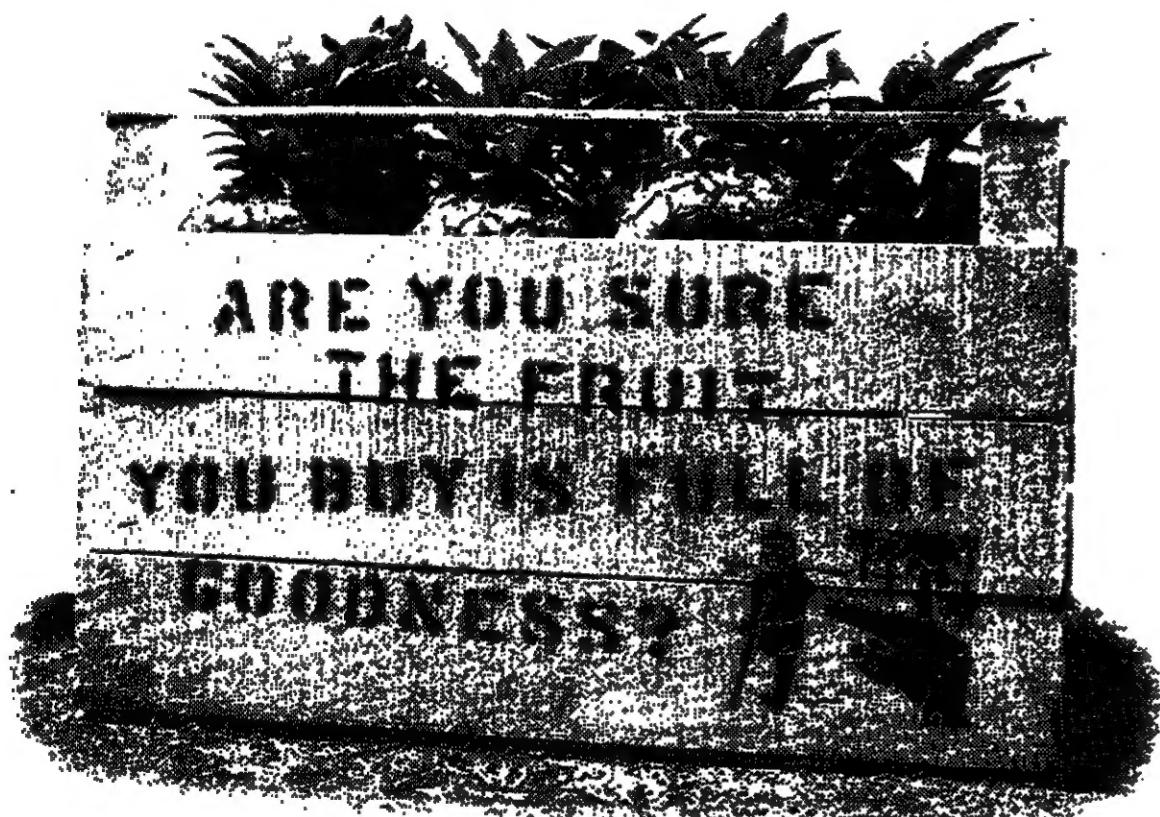
Some parishioners claimed that it was wrong to commemorate living clergy in that way. Allegations of idolatry and papism flew, while other

objectors described the scheme as a scandal, a disgrace or a calumny.

A secret ballot showed that a third of the congregation opposed the scheme. Canon Caddick was criticised by some people as "too academic" and "too much a theologian, not enough a parish priest". One leading objector said: "It is entirely inappropriate. What would happen if they should fall from grace?"

The judge ruled firmly against the objectors yesterday, concluding that there was no legal, aesthetic or other reason against the plan. His report, however, criticises both sides for mishandling the argument to such an extent that a court hearing before a Crown Court judge was required to resolve it.

Graham Gent, 49, a leading objector, said that he accepted the ruling but still believed it was not right to honour living people in a church.



"I saw an accident when a friend fell from the truck taking us to the plantation. The tyre ran over his leg and he was sent to the company dispensary. They amputated his leg. He got no compensation and had to buy a plastic leg with his own money. The man has not worked since the accident." THE PEOPLE FOUNDATION FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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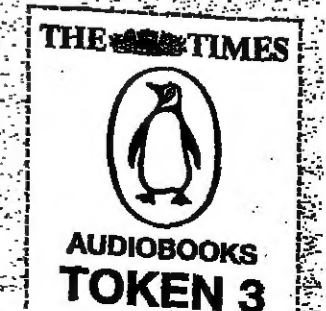
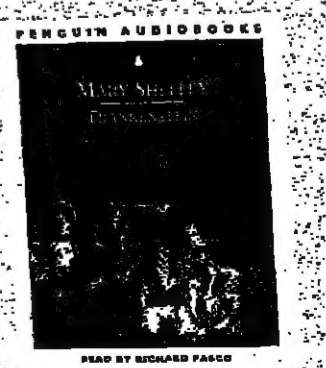
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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 1996

Palace press chief leaves Queen for Burger King

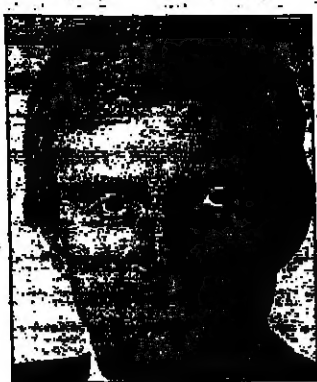
By ALAN HAMILTON

CHARLES ANSON, who has been the Queen's official spokesman during one of the most troubled and momentous periods of her reign, is leaving his post as Buckingham Palace press secretary early next year to return to private industry.

After more than six years, a longer stint than most of his predecessors, Mr Anson will exchange the courtly corridors of the Palace for the more prosaic world of Burger King and Smirnoff vodka as group corporate relations director of Grand Metropolitan, the food and drink giant.

The Queen's new press secretary is to be Geoffrey Crawford, 46, an Australian diplomat who joined the Palace press office in 1988 and who is currently Mr Anson's deputy. Mr Crawford has agreed with the Queen that he will do the job only until the year 2000, when he plans to return to Australia with his wife and three children.

Last November Mr Crawford, whose duties included looking after the Princess of Wales's public life after her separation, told her that he could no longer act for her after she gave her interview to



Charles Anson and his successor, Geoffrey Crawford

Panorama without telling him in advance.

He is succeeded as deputy by Penny Russell-Smith, a government information officer who has been seconded to the Palace and who has been working there as an assistant press secretary. Miss Russell-Smith will remain there at least until 1998, looking after press relations for the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal.

Mr Anson, 52, who is married with two teenage children, told the Queen when he accepted the hot seat in 1990 that he would do the job for only a limited period; he agreed his departure with her this summer. When he moved

to the Palace from his job as head of public relations at Kleinwort Benson merchant bank, Mr Anson little imagined the long spell of exceedingly stormy weather through which he would have to navigate the monarchy's public image. He was helped by his long experience as a diplomat, including a spell in the Tehran Embassy during the Iranian revolution, and a stint in the Downing Street press office.

"It has been a tumultuous period in some ways, but it has also been a period of tremendous changes and many more positive events," Mr Anson said yesterday.

Nothing has caused more tumult at the Palace in recent

years than the separation and subsequent divorce of both the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. After a private briefing given by Mr Anson to correspondents on the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York, the BBC reported: "The knives are out for Fergie." An embarrassed Mr Anson offered his resignation to the Queen but it was immediately refused.

Press secretaries would much rather have nothing to do with family matters, and Mr Anson has had his share of weightier constitutional announcements, including major changes in the monarchy's financial arrangements, the Queen's decision to pay income tax and the opening of Buckingham Palace to the public. He has also masterminded media coverage of ground-breaking overseas tours by the Queen to Russia and South Africa.

Some previous press secretaries, including Ronald Allison and the long-lasting Michael Shea, have returned to the private sector to make serious money, although at about £50,000 a year the press secretary's post offers comfortable recompense for dealing endlessly with the hungry wolves of Fleet Street.



Penny Russell-Smith, who succeeds Geoffrey Crawford as deputy press secretary

Merchant banker to take charge of royal finances

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE new head of the Queen's household is to be Lord Camoys, a leading businessman and Roman Catholic.

The seventh Baron Camoys, 56, will take up his post as Lord Chamberlain at the end of 1997 when the Earl of Airlie, 70, retires. The appointment is made by Downing Street with the approval of the Queen.

Although the appointment will

please the Catholic community, the Lord Chamberlain's religion is of no particular significance, as his duties are administrative rather than constitutional. Nor is it unusual for a businessman to take the post. Lord Airlie currently spends one day a week in his capacity as chairman of the Perth-based General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation.

His business background is, in fact, more significant than his religion and is further proof that

the Royal Household has long ceased to be staffed entirely by high-fliers from the worlds of public service or the Armed Forces. The Queen's private secretary and press secretary both came from merchant banks, and her Keeper of the Privy Purse is a former partner in one of the City's leading accountancy firms.

Lord Camoys has a large business portfolio, and numbers among his appointments the non-executive deputy chairmanship of Barclays de

Zoete Wedd, a leading merchant bank, and the deputy chairmanship of Sotheby's. The Palace said yesterday that it was too early to say whether Lord Camoys would maintain his business connections, but from January 1, 1998, his duties to the Queen would be his first priority.

If the Queen is chairman of the royal "firm", the Lord Chamberlain is her managing director. Since his appointment in 1984, Lord Airlie has presided over a number of far-

reaching changes in the way the Royal Household is run and financed, including a thorough management review of Palace organisation in 1986; the Queen's decision to pay income tax; the ending of Civil List payments to most of her family; the opening of Buckingham Palace to the public; the appointment of a professional City accountant as director of finance; and the subsequent running by the Palace of its own budget for building maintenance and royal travel.

Boy wins cash over drink that cost an eye

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY who was blinded in one eye by the top of a lemonade bottle was awarded damages estimated at £50,000 yesterday in the High Court.

John Pearce, then eight, was opening a two-litre bottle of Tesco's lemonade when the plastic cap flew off, blinding his left eye. His disability meant he would never realise his dream of joining the police, the court was told.

Through his parents, Robert and Rosemary, he began an action for damages against Tesco Stores, the drink suppliers Rank Hovis McDougall Foods and the bottle manufacturers United Closures and Plastics. They did not accept liability but damages were awarded by agreement, the court was told.

Paul Stewart, representing the boy, now aged 14, told Mr Justice Holland that John had experienced enormous pain and suffering after the accident at home in Ansty, near Brighton. He had only recently been able to pursue his love of rugby and other school sports after an operation to insert a false eye last year.

The level of damages was kept secret as part of the settlement, but the judge, who said he considered the amount "very fair", had been told that the average level for loss of an eye was about £27,000. "One hopes that life proceeds in such a way that he is able to fully compensate for his disability, as many people do," the judge told his parents. John, who is now a member of the Army cadet force, was not in court for today's hearing. His parents, who launched a campaign for better bottle safety after the accident, declined to comment as they left court.



Lord Camoys: will take up post at end of 1997

Bats snuggle up in stately storeroom

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A COLONY of rare bats has been provided with a winter home in the grounds of an abandoned Gothic-style mansion at a cost of £11,000. The project, funded by English Nature, will provide secure hibernation quarters for some 95 greater horseshoe bats.

Roger Ransome, a world authority on the species, which is among the most endangered in Britain, created the hibernaculum inside two brick tunnels in a hillside on the estate of Woodchester Park Mansion at Stroud, Gloucestershire. "The tunnels were probably designed to store coal and wood."

Among the comforts installed for the bats is a small

heater to provide a hotter area where they can go after returning from feeding forays. The higher temperature aids their digestion.

Mr Ransome said: "The greater horseshoe, *Rhinolophus ferrugineus*, is our second biggest native bat, with a wingspan of up to 18in. There are estimated to be no more than about 3,500 left in 14 breeding sites scattered across southwest Britain, a third of them in Devon."

The bat needs a mixture of deciduous woodland and grazing pasture to support its diet of moths and beetles. It also needs old buildings for summer roosting and underground sites for hibernation.

Youth loses fingers in cap blast

A teenager has lost two fingers after igniting a block of explosive caps sold for toy guns. The blast also injured a friend and blew out windows in a house at Haverhill, Suffolk.

Jan Redpath, 17, also received minor facial and arm injuries. The two fingers of his left hand were recovered after the explosion but doctors at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge were unable to sew them back on. His friend was treated for a perforated eardrum.

Patient killed

A psychiatric patient died after escaping from hospital and climbing into an electricity sub-station. The Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Birmingham has launched an inquiry into the death of Hugh Kirkwood, 31, who suffered 90 per cent burns. He was being treated at the hospital under the terms of a court order.

Officer cleared

A police officer who allegedly struck a Watford footballer and a fan when they ran on to the pitch at Bournemouth was cleared of assault by Wimbome magistrates in Dorset. Acting Inspector John Green, 41, who was in charge of security, was said to have been taking reasonable action against a mass pitch invasion.

Elderly robbed

A couple in their 90s were threatened by two masked raiders who burst into their bedroom and demanded money. The man, 92, and his wife, 91, were not hurt but were badly shocked by the break-in at their home in Handsworth, Birmingham. The intruders stole gold jewellery and £200.

Beethoven draft

An unrecorded sketchleaf for Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, containing drafts for the Sanctus and Benedictus, is expected to fetch up to £50,000 at a sale of musical manuscripts at Christie's on December 6. The *Missa Solemnis* took him nearly four years to complete and is regarded as one of his greatest achievements.

Cannabis alert

Eight students whose pot-smoking set off a fire alarm at Lincoln College, Oxford, have been banned from the university for ten days. They admitted using the drug after staff noticed its aroma during a search of an evacuated building. The college said that the students had been disciplined by the Dean.

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Firearms Bill

Backbench Tories condemn 'panic' gun legislation

By JAMES LANDALE AND ALICE THOMSON

TORY backbenchers accused the Government last night of trying to rush through legislation for a ban on almost all handguns without proper consultation.

At the start of the Commons debate on the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, Nicholas Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW) protested that a guillotine motion, agreed by the Government and the Opposition, would curtail debate and limit MPs' ability to influence the legislation.

"This is the worst sort of guillotine because it is an agreed guillotine," he said. "It is an occasion when the House runs the risk of banding together as some form of lynch mob taking away the rights of a significant and honourable minority without proper consideration."

The procedure reduced the sovereignty of Parliament, he said. "Our most important duty is our need to give this legislation the careful scrutiny that it certainly demands."

He said that 96 per cent of crimes involving firearms were committed with illegal firearms. As such the Bill was aimed at only the 4 per cent of crimes committed with legally held handguns.

The House was entitled to say to the parents of children killed in the Dunblane massacre: "We understand your feelings, we share your grief—but we do just wonder whether the solution that you put forward is in fact going to have the effect that you so much hope for."

Mr Budgen said that MPs knew this to be the case but were afraid of telling the Dunblane parents. Instead, MPs were going to give gunowners and others affected by the Bill compensation that could be as much as £500 million.

Earlier a new money resolution allowing MPs to discuss compensation for the gun clubs, retailers and wholesalers that lost trade as a result of the Bill was approved without a vote. Although the Government is opposed to such compensation, Michael How-

ard, the Home Secretary, acknowledged that MPs should have the chance to debate the issue.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, supported the guillotine motion but attacked the Government's use of a three-line whip to order Tory MPs to vote for a ban that excluded 22 calibre handguns. He said the Government knew that a clear majority of MPs would be in favour of a ban on all handguns if there was a free vote.

"So by insisting on a whipped vote, the Government display remarkably little confidence in their own arguments," Sir Jerry Wiggin (C, Weston Super Mare) said that, whatever view one had of the Bill, it was not right to take away people's money, investments and livelihoods without fair compensation. "Generous compensation will help to allay the deep feeling of injus-

tice that law-abiding people who enjoy shooting feel at having their sport prohibited by an Act of Parliament."

Sir Jerry, a former Tory minister and former chairman of the British Shooting Sports Council, also attacked the use of a guillotine motion. He told ministers: "Don't try that trick again. These things are better done with consultation and by experts."

Gerry Birmingham (Lab, St Helens S) accepted the handgun ban but called for greater compensation for gun clubs and gun owners. Compensation should not just cover the guns and accessories outlawed by the Bill, but also property and other financial losses incurred as a result of the legislation.

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffordshire South), said there was considerable unease on the Tory benches over the tone and content of the Bill. Law-abiding citizens would be unfairly penalised. "Panic legislation is rarely good legislation. I do not believe that this legislation is going to enhance the reputation of Parliament. Nor do I believe it's serving the interests of our country."

Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) said that although he had the greatest of sympathy for parents whose children died at Dunblane this legislation was not the answer. "It is not going to stop a Hamilton in the future. A potential Thomas Hamilton will continue to acquire weapons; the difference is that in future he will acquire them illegally and without the knowledge of, or notice to, the authorities."

"This is rushed legislation and if you rush legislation you are in grave danger of introducing mistaken legislation. This is mistaken legislation."

Sir Terence Higgins (C, Worthing), President of the Worthing and West Sussex Shooting Club, said the Government's proposals were unlikely to have "any significant impact" in reducing the probability of another Dunblane massacre, but could be counterproductive in driving gun ownership underground.



Budgen: gun law needs careful scrutiny



Wiggin: demand for generous compensation



Tony Blair, the Labour leader, presenting the Life After Stroke Awards yesterday, including a plaque to the veteran broadcaster Charlie Chester, 82, in recognition of his fight to regain his speech and mobility. Last month Mr Blair told the Labour Party conference how his life had been profoundly affected by his father's stroke

Utilities can afford to pay windfall tax, says Labour

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN will today underpin Labour's commitment to a one-off windfall tax on the privatised utilities in the face of a renewed Tory attack.

In a speech to the London Futures Exchange, the Shadow Chancellor will insist that a Labour government would raise income from the utilities to pay for a programme to help young people and the long-term unemployed to get back to work. The party says that the utilities can afford to pay the tax.

Mr Brown's speech will come 24 hours after the Tories produced figures which they said showed that the windfall tax would cost some consum-

ers more than £200 in higher telephone, water, gas and electricity charges.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, told a press conference at Conservative Central Office yesterday that average households in England and Wales could face an increase of £192 in their bills — more in some regions — if the entire cost of the estimated £5 billion levy was passed on to consumers.

Dr Mawhinney, accused of lying by Labour, acknowledged that the figures might not be correct. But he urged Mr Brown to say what the true amounts were. "I have a simple challenge for Labour. If they don't agree with our calculations, they should tell us what their figures are."

Labour dismissed the To-

ries' figures and pointed to a recent leaked report by the bankers SG Warburg, which concluded that the utilities could comfortably afford the levy. Alan Milburn, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said: "The state of attempted foreign takeovers of regional electricity companies is the surest sign that the windfall levy has already been taken into account and that the utilities can afford to pay."

In his speech, Mr Brown will reiterate that the tax will be levied only once. He will contrast Labour's policy with the first Thatcher government, which levied a surprise windfall tax on the profits of the banks. "There was no warning in advance. Labour will make it absolutely clear in advance," he will say.

Brown has bowed to the inevitable on single currency

A Blair government could still enter a European single currency in the first wave. The chances are perhaps only about 30 to 40 per cent at most even if Labour has a comfortable working majority. But that is more than the nil chances under a re-elected Tory government. These odds have not really been altered by the weekend announcement that Labour would enter during the next Parliament only after a referendum.

The main reaction, however, has been that it makes early entry less likely. But that confuses the immediate political mood with a possibly different position after the election. Gordon Brown had certainly opposed a referendum, arguing that a favourable reference in Labour's election manifesto to the principle of monetary union might be sufficient evidence of public support. This view has not even been shared by strong pro-Euro-

peans in the Shadow Cabinet, including Tony Blair. They believe that given the commitment of other parties to a referendum, and the strength of public feeling on the issue, it would have been impossible for Labour to go ahead without consulting people directly. In that respect, Mr Brown was only bowing to the inevitable, as Kenneth Clarke did six months ago. That counted more than the justification offered by the Brown camp that a referendum is necessary because important features of a single currency will still be unclear at the time of the election, preventing a full debate then.

Given that a referendum was always likely, the announcement does not really make much difference. Holding a ballot would take time and create uncertainty in the markets, but so would the necessary legislation on entry. But any Government recommending entry would have to win the public debate. A referendum is not in itself an insuperable hurdle, though, unlike 1975, most of the national press would be strongly against entry, and the polls suggest that a substantial hard core minor-

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

ity would be hostile under any circumstances.

The announcement has also been seen as a sign that Labour is moving in a sceptic direction. As he signalled on Friday, Mr Blair does have doubts, both about whether economic conditions across Europe would allow monetary union to principle and about specific British difficulties, including the state of public opinion. The more sceptical Robin Cook has warned that Britain might not be in the first wave. These remarks, as well as the referendum announcement, are partly to prevent the Tories trying to fight the election over a single currency. The leaderships of both main parties are currently making sceptical gestures to protect their flanks.

But, as Mr Brown has pointed out, nothing of substance has changed. Labour remains in favour of monetary union in principle and all options remain open. After an election, Mr Blair would be in a much stronger position. The economic decision would turn less on nebulous talk about real convergence of growth and unemployment rates, where Britain is well placed, than on financial criteria such as levels of public borrowing and national debt. Labour will be keeping a close eye on the Budget a week today to see how far Britain is above the Maastricht criteria.

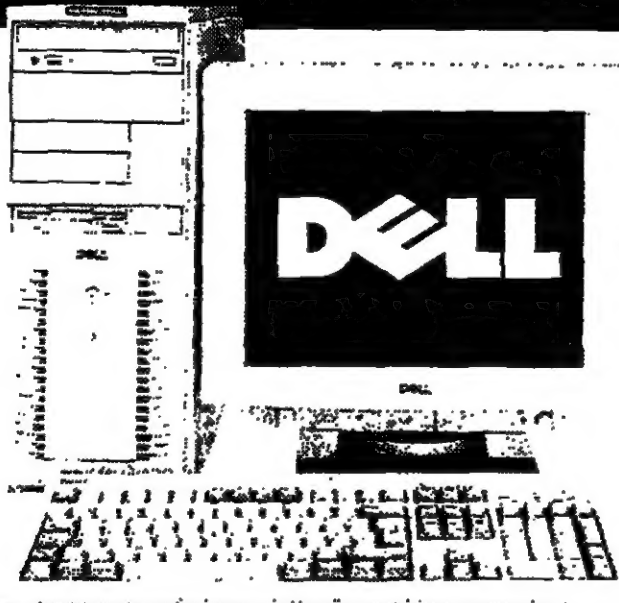
The key political factors for Mr Blair would be the size of his Commons majority, the extent of disarray on the Tory benches after a defeat and the pressures of the rest of his economic and constitutional agenda. Would he feel strong enough to take on a probably ferocious battle over a single currency at the same time as trying to make a success of the first Labour government for two decades? That is why early entry remains unlikely. But it is not impossible. In a year's time, monetary union could be the central issue of British politics.

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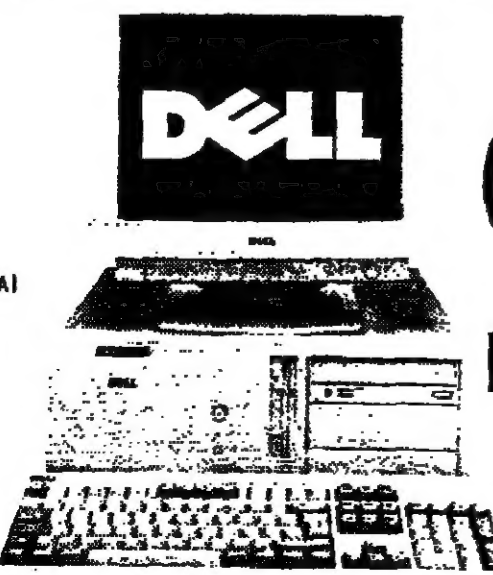
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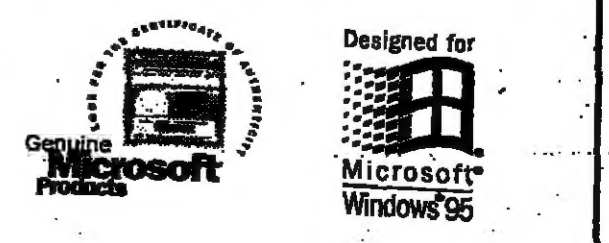
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WORKING FROM HOME

House where Clinton was born caught in cash row

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE Democratic Party has dismissed John Huang, the fundraiser who embroiled President Clinton's election campaign in weeks of controversy about suspect Asian contributions.

Attention is also focusing on Mark Middleton, a former White House aide, who has been raising funds in Asia to refurbish the house in Hope, Arkansas, where Mr Clinton was born. Mr Middleton, believed to have raised \$50,000 (£30,000) from a Hong Kong billionaire for the project, denies that he sought to raise overseas money for the party itself in breach of federal laws.

The most expensive presidential election in US history has left Democrats and Republicans battling against allegations of improper fund-raising. National fund-raising laws aim to prevent foreign interests influencing the outcome of elections. The Democratic National Committee says Mr Huang's dismissal at the weekend was unrelated to the row and was part of normal post-election "downsizing". In which around 50 posts have been cut. However, Democrats have found it hard to shake off allegations, which surfaced in the closing weeks of the campaign, that Mr Huang broke the rules.

The party has now returned nearly a quarter of the \$2.5 million raised by Mr Huang, who became the party's vice-chairman of finance a year ago, focusing on Asian communities. These include donations from a South Korean company, which breached the ban on overseas funds, and \$325,000 from a Californian businessman who claimed in court he had no American

assets, raising questions about the true source of the money. The party also announced yesterday that it would now return \$5,000 Mr Huang raised from a rally in a Buddhist temple in April. It said that it could not be sure that the woman who gave the money was a legal resident of the United States.

The Justice Department is considering a request by senior Republicans to appoint an independent counsel to investigate Mr Huang's fund-raising, and 11 congressional committees have begun inquiries into his activities.

At the same time, Republicans are raising questions about Asian funds raised by the Clinton Birthplace Foundation, which plans to turn the two-storey house, where Mr Clinton lived for the first four years of his life, into a tourist attraction. Mr Middleton, a former White House aide, is believed to have raised \$50,000 in April from Nina Wang, the Hong Kong billionaire. The foundation, set up three years ago as a charity, is believed to have raised between \$600,000 and \$700,000. There is no ban on the foundation raising overseas money, but Republicans are questioning whether Mr Middleton sought to obtain Asian money for the Democratic Party at the same time.

Mr Middleton has denied the allegations. However, last week, the White House suspended his access after allegations that he improperly used its restaurant to entertain clients. A White House spokesman added that Mr Clinton supported the project but was unaware of the details.



A fighter of the Islamic Taliban militia fires an artillery shell towards positions held by soldiers loyal to the former Afghan Government. Long-range artillery and tank duels between the two sides are now an everyday feature of the war north of the capital, Kabul

US veto confirms exit of Boutros Ghali

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

YEARS of acrimony in relations between America and the United Nations culminated yesterday with Washington denying Boutros Ghali a second term as the world body's Secretary-General.

The 15-nation Security Council began the formal selection of the next chief with the US representative insisting that Dr Boutros Ghali step down at the end of his five-year term on December 31. "We respect Boutros Ghali, but the UN needs new leadership for the 21st century," Madeleine Albright, the American Ambassador, said. Dr Boutros Ghali has an aristocratic, somewhat aloof style of leadership that put him in conflict

with the combative Ms Albright. The first UN chief to enter office after the Cold War, Dr Boutros Ghali never won the confidence of the world's sole remaining superpower as the organisation struggled with new challenges.

When he took up his post in 1992, the UN was flush from victory in the Gulf War and seemed on the brink of a golden age in which the organisation might finally fulfil its goal of providing "collective security". The new Clinton Administration proclaimed a policy of "assertive multilateralism" with the UN as its centrepiece.

Relations quickly soured when 18 US soldiers serving beside UN peacekeepers in Somalia were killed in a firefight that most Americans did not understand. The tensions were exacerbated by Dr Boutros Ghali's persistent

refusal to sanction more robust military action against the Bosnian Serbs. Washington retreated into a more isolationist stance, now mockingly referred to by some diplomats as "assertive unilateralism".

UN peacekeepers were withdrawn from Somalia and the whole peacekeeping mission in the Balkans transferred to a Nato-led force. American troops continued, however, to serve under the UN flag in successful missions in Haiti and Macedonia, where US national interests were considered to be at stake.

The official reason for the American opposition to Dr Boutros Ghali is his lack of enthusiasm for UN reform. Washington officials say that a new secretary-general is essential if the Clinton Administration is to persuade

the Republican-controlled Congress to pay Washington's \$1.4 billion (£903 million) in UN arrears.

But the UN reform effort is already in the hands of an American accountant and the organisation has recently announced its first no-growth budget and more than 1,000 job cuts.

With Dr Boutros Ghali out of the running, the Security Council plans to consider only other Africans for the post on the theory that Africa deserves a second term. Among those in contention are Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian head of UN peacekeeping; Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity; Hamid Algabid, the head of the Islamic Conference; Amara Essy, the Foreign Minister of Ivory Coast; and possibly President Diouf of Senegal.

WORLD SUMMARY

Canadian judge has terror link

New York: Paul Began, Quebec's Justice Minister has asked for an investigation into how a former convict once involved with Canadian terrorism has been appointed a judge (Quentin Letts writes). Richard Therrien, 46, who has been appointed to Quebec's criminal court, helped a member of the hardline Front de liberation du Quebec to evade police after the group's fatal 1970 kidnapping of a cabinet minister, Pierre Laporte. Mr Laporte's dead body was found in a car boot.

France launches sex symbols

Paris: French television channels launched a system of on-screen symbols to inform viewers of the level of sex and violence in programmes and alert parents to those considered unsuitable for children (Ben Macintyre writes). All French television programmes on the national networks will fall into one of four categories: parental consent advised; not recommended for under-12s; viewers over 16 only; and suitable for all.

Dagestan flats toll rises to 50

Moscow: Rescuers pulled more bodies from the wreckage of a block of flats that housed Russian officers and their families in Kaspysk, Dagestan, bringing the death toll from the weekend explosion to 50. One or more bombs may have been planted in the basement, officials said, and police detained a suspect. Rescuers vowed to keep digging after a dog was found alive in the debris. (AP)

Burma tourism drive opposed

Brussels: A campaign aimed at countering a promotional drive by Burma's military Government to attract European tourists was launched here by Members of the European Parliament and trade unionists. Led by Glenys Kinnock, they staged a protest outside the offices of the French holiday group Club Med, which has promoted holidays in Burma. (AFP)

Party splits over colony's council

Hong Kong: A pro-democracy party that plays a key role in the colony's Legislative Council split after it decided to join the interim legislature that will replace the council next year. Sixteen members of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood resigned when party leaders decided to let members join the provisional body. (Reuters)

Poison platter

Brisbane: More than 500 tourists caught salmonella by eating a chocolate sauce served on a Qantas flight to Japan from the city of Cairns, Queensland health authorities said. (AFP)

President travels fair way for a round with Greg Norman

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WHILE he may indulge in traditional American diplomacy and find time to praise the environmental wonder of the Great Barrier Reef, President Clinton has made little secret about the true excitement of his Australian visit, which starts today.

What did he most want to do on arrival? "Play golf with Greg Norman," came the answer before Mr Clinton boarded Air Force One yesterday for his first tour of the Australian continent.

Despite feigning surprise that Mr Norman should wish to join him on the links, Mr Clinton had in fact been planning a game with the mighty golfer for some time. During the election campaign, whenever his staff mentioned an overwhelming lead in the polls, Mr Clinton would remind them of the Australian's stunning defeat at the hands of Nick Faldo in the US Masters this year. It is

clear that the prospect of a round with Norman helped to keep Mr Clinton focused during his brief holiday in Hawaii. Although the courses were waterlogged and others left before the arrival of the driving rain, he forced Benjamin Cayetano, the Governor of Hawaii, and Admiral Joseph Prueher, of the Pacific US Command, to join him at the Luana Hills Country Club on Oahu.

Described by an onlooker as "aqua golf", the game reflected the President's near-obsession for a sport now synonymous in America with the baby-boomer generation.

The only President to have reduced his handicap while in office, from 16 to 13, Mr Clinton has been known to practise for hours on the rebuilt Eisenhower putting green at the White House. Earlier this year in San Diego, he claimed to have achieved a lifelong goal of

breaking 80. "Even a blind pig finds an acorn sometimes," said the President.

Unfortunately, even in golf, the Clinton name remains tarnished. Many believe his handicap and his best score say as much about the US chief executive as any Whitewater investigation could. Although Presidents as far back as William Taft have been avid golfers, Mr Clinton and Richard Nixon are the only two to have boasted that they had broken 80.

"He speaks a good game," said one Clinton golfing partner recently. "But you can't count the score as real."

In August 1993, for example, Mr Clinton played two rounds with Gerald Ford, the former President, and Jack Nicklaus, the American golfing legend. The President said that he had at least twice out-driven Mr Nicklaus, a feat even the professional golfer found hard to confirm.



Bill Clinton has kept an eye on cutting his handicap

Senior CIA officer 'spied for Russia'

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

A VETERAN CIA officer has been arrested and charged with passing secrets to the Russians since 1994 in return for more than \$100,000 (£60,000), the FBI said yesterday.

Harold Nicholson, 46, who appeared in court in Virginia, was arrested on Saturday at Dulles International Airport outside Washington as he prepared to leave on a foreign trip. The FBI and CIA, which had become increasingly suspicious of his activities in the past few months, claim they saw him photographing top-secret CIA documents on Russia last Tuesday.

The FBI said that it had been conducting electronic and video surveillance of Mr Nicholson for some time, and had searched his home in a Washington suburb, as well as his computer files. Large deposits of money and "luxury spending" alerted the bureau. Mr Nicholson could face

life in prison without parole or even the death penalty, according to a federal prosecutor. He has been charged with passing secrets to the Russians since June 1994 but officials fear the disclosures could have occurred since the early 1990s.

In the past few months, as suspicions grew, Mr Nicholson was reassigned to the CIA's counter-terrorism unit to limit his access to sensitive material. Previously he was a spy instructor, training other CIA agents outside America.

The case is the second arrest in three years of a senior CIA employee on charges of spying for Russia. However, officials said last night that the latest case appeared to have no links to that of Aldrich Ames, who spied for the KGB and Russian intelligence for nine years until his arrest in February 1994.

Ames, who is serving a life sentence, is blamed for the deaths of nine US agents.

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Germans swept up in economic sea change with Telekom share flotation

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERMANS yesterday cracked open their bulging piggy banks and ransacked their savings books to buy about £8 billion worth of shares in Europe's largest ever public offer. The flotation of Deutsche Telekom, accompanied by some very un-German razamatazz, marks a sea change in the country's conservative economic culture.

There have been other signs of a shake-up in Germany. New open-

ing hours allow customers to shop until 8pm on weekdays; bakers are no longer forbidden from offering fresh bread on a Sunday. Shareholders are demanding and receiving more attention from traditionally tight-fisted and tight-lipped executive boards.

Trade unions are coming to terms with welfare reforms that reduce paid sick leave and paid-up spa holidays. Social Democratic critics call it the "Americanisation" of Germany. In fact, it is simply that Germans are recognising the need to accept some risk and

flexibility in their everyday life. However, the launch of the Telekom shares was worthy of a Barnum and Bailey circus. The said German telecommunications group stopped short of hiring cheerleaders and a brass band, but employees wore magenta-coloured hats and laid out huge pink building blocks in the square outside the Frankfurt stock exchange.

A large television screen featured a Times Square-style clock which ticked off the hours and minutes until the opening of the

stock market. A popular gravelly voiced actor, Manfred Krug, has starred in a long run of Telekom advertisements reassuring Germans that they will not get their fingers burnt if they play the market. His last televised advice, nonetheless, was to hang on to the shares for a while and "let them mature like a good red wine".

The aim is to create an Aktienkultur — a share culture — in a Germany that still unthinkingly remembers the collapse of the inter-war Weimar Republic, which fell victim to hyper-inflation and

political extremism. The grandfather of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, for example, invested in war bonds and lost his savings after the First World War.

Since those stormy times Germans have favoured gold, property and fat savings books. This has had an impact on the country's ability to innovate. Few Germans, and indeed few banks, are willing to put up risk capital for cutting-edge companies. The result has been that Germany's 19th-century tradition of commercially useful invention has been eroded and the

country lags a long way behind United States and Japan in terms of registered patents.

Telekom, however, is presenting itself as a safe gamble. Commerzbank has even launched a "Safe-T" share allowing Germans to invest in Telekom while minimising their risks. Two-thirds of the six hundred million shares in yesterday's issue were allocated to German investors and the issue was oversubscribed. The shares, listed at DM428.50 (£135) were being traded at more than DM33.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minis-

ter, dubbed the flotation an "historic day for Germany as a financial centre". The fact is, however, that Frankfurt is a very underdeveloped financial site with barely 700 domestic firms publicly traded. Telekom, however, believes its heavily publicised launch will change the psychology of Germans. "In the 1990s Germans no longer want to be the big wet blanket of the stock market," claimed Ron Sommer, Telekom's chairman.

Shares surge, page 27

Demise of Mars probe blamed on latch failure

BY THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW AND NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Russian Mars-96 space probe, which plunged into the Pacific Ocean early yesterday at a cost of £180 million, might have been saved by better worldwide observation.

Dr Howard Shaw, of the University of Kent, who designed and built two instruments for the ill-fated mission, said yesterday that everything had worked except a simple latch designed to disconnect the spacecraft from the final rocket motor.

"The Russians no longer have worldwide telemetry," he said. "They lose sight of their satellites once they disappear over the horizon. Twenty years ago they had a fleet of ships dispersed around the world to keep track of them, but shortage of money forced them to abandon that."

The reason why better telemetry might have saved Mars-96 was that everything had gone well, and the fourth-stage rocket had put the satellite on to an interplanetary orbit. It was actually en route for Mars, Dr Shaw said, and checks had shown everything on the satellite was working.

The final step was to separate the fourth-stage booster and the spacecraft, and then fire retro-rockets to bring the booster back to Earth to burn up, allowing the spacecraft to sail on alone on its ten-month journey. What the Russians

did not know, because the probe was out of their sight, was that it had failed to separate from the rocket.

When the retro-rockets were fired, therefore, the whole assembly was brought back out of interplanetary orbit and into a low Earth orbit from which it quickly decayed and burned up.

"If they had known what was going on, they could have allowed the spacecraft and the

booster to go on to Mars, and worked out how to separate them later," Dr Shaw said. "The failure, he believed, was in a simple mechanism consisting of four latches and a spring which linked Mars-96 to the booster. 'It's a mundane, basic little thing,' he said. 'Maybe it was not greased properly. They did so much and got so close. It's a great shame and disappointment.'"

The loss of the mission cost the Russians £75 million, and other nations which had contributed experiments a further £108 million, the Russian Space Agency said.

Germany had experiments costing £24 million on board, and had also given £12 million to enable the Russians to pay their staff.

American faces were also red yesterday, after confident predictions that the spacecraft was due to crash in Australia turned out to be wide of the mark. Predicting the precise point of impact of satellites decaying out of orbit is difficult, because the density of the atmosphere varies greatly from place to place.

The failure of Mars-96 is a severe and perhaps mortal blow to Russia's unmanned space programme. It was already two years behind schedule, and no further missions are planned. "Mars-96 was really the final effort," said Dr Shaw. "They will have a lot of trouble convincing politicians to spend any more."

However, writing off Moscow's programme may be premature, said James Kerasia, head of the London office of Commercial Space Technologies, a company that arranges launches on Russian rockets. "They won't give up. Space travel is part of their philosophy, it's really in their hearts. It's one of the things that reminds them how good they are."

and other nations which had contributed experiments a further £108 million, the Russian Space Agency said.

Germany had experiments costing £24 million on board, and had also given £12 million to enable the Russians to pay their staff.

American faces were also red yesterday, after confident predictions that the spacecraft was due to crash in Australia turned out to be wide of the mark. Predicting the precise point of impact of satellites decaying out of orbit is difficult, because the density of the atmosphere varies greatly from place to place.

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President Yelstin flanked by staff at Moscow's Cardiological Centre three days after his November 5 heart operation. In a photograph taken by Tatiana Dyachenko, his daughter. Doctors say that he is gaining strength daily and will have talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, today

Romanians jettison past to elect dissident professor as President

BY ROGER BOYES

THE revolution finally arrived in Romania yesterday as voters threw out of power Ion Iliescu, the shadowy post-Communist President who ruled for almost seven years with the backing of the country's security services.

Champagne flowed and students hoisted the Romanian flag — its heart ripped out as in the 1989 uprising against Nicolae Ceausescu — to celebrate the weekend ballot-box victory of a dissident geologist.

The victory of Professor Emil Constantinescu seemed to confirm a trend against the Left throughout Central Europe — the Centre Left recorded big losses in local elections in the Czech Republic on Saturday, the Lithuanians have returned a centre-right Government to power and the Bulgarians earlier this month elected a conservative lawyer, Peter Stoyanov, as President.

The Romanian election, however, may be the most significant of all these. The Romanian President, unlike the Bulgarian head of state, has real power; and, unlike Lithuania and the Czech Republic, where the decision to press ahead with market reform is not seriously contested, Romania is at an important juncture.

Mr Iliescu pursued a policy

of gradual reform which failed to tap any of the great economic potential of the country. His last desperate efforts to cling to power were typical of his Communist background: he froze food and energy prices and raised pensions by 10 per cent from October 1.

Mr Constantinescu will have to break with this style of management if he is to win back the confidence of Western investors. His campaign promised to cut taxes, improve living standards and modernise industry. It is clear that he wants to introduce rapid market reform. If there is no progress in the first 200 days of his rule, he has pledged to

resign. "We will have an austerity programme. We have an extremely difficult legacy. The Government must apply long-term reform but at the same time, must achieve quick results... the time for action has begun," he said on Romanian television.

The economic shake-up will prove difficult and President-elect Constantinescu will face opposition not only from traditionally militant coalminers and factory workers — who fear unemployment if there is radical economic change — but also the secret services.

It is the heirs of the feared Securitate who have come to symbolise the continuity of the

Iliescu presidency with the rule of his predecessor, Ceausescu. Mr Iliescu, a Moscow-trained engineer, was once regarded as crown prince to the dictator. He fell out of favour in 1984, however.

After Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed in 1989, the influence of the Securitate, now renamed and split into six competing services, has grown to the point where the head of the Romanian Information Service, General Virgil Magureanu, is the second most important figure in the country.

Again and again, the agents have made their presence felt. Apart from evidence of continued illegal phone-tapping, much of the privatisation process in Romania is bound up with the question of Securitate control. Professor Constantinescu has been quick to emphasise that he has a clean record. "There are no dark corners in my life and consequently I cannot be blackmailed... nobody can put pressure on me."

Ion Cristoiu, a commentator, put it another way: "He was not strangled, he was not toppled in a coup, nor was he shot in Targoviste [the scene of the Ceausescu execution]. That is why today is an historic day."



Constantinescu: market reform is a priority



Iliescu: rule was backed by security services

Belarus chief says enemies can leave

FROM RICHARD BENTON
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Lukashenko of Belarus yesterday vowed that nothing would stop him augmenting his considerable powers and warned opponents of his dictatorial rule to look "for another homeland".

As Belarus appeared to slip further towards violent confrontation, neither the President nor his parliamentary opponents showed any signs of backing down. The populist leader of the former Soviet republic told supporters in the provincial city of Gomel he was prepared to "take the most rigorous measures" against his enemies.

The two sides have been locked in a bitter, at times violent, dispute over Mr Lukashenko's attempt to increase substantially his powers, an issue due to be resolved by referendum on Sunday.

He wants to extend his four-year term in office by an additional two and a half years, to win the right to appoint and dismiss local leaders, the right to set elections and additional powers that would turn the country into a virtual dictatorship.

The contest turned violent at the weekend when thousands of anti-Lukashenko demonstrators marched through Minsk, the capital, and clashed with club-wielding riot police, leaving scores injured or under arrest.

Parliament has been staging its own resistance campaign by occupying the assembly building, a move taken to avoid being locked out by the security forces.

Mikhail Chigir, the Prime Minister, appeared to switch sides yesterday when he threatened to quit unless the referendum were cancelled. Mr Lukashenko said he could be easily replaced by "another bureaucrat... those who do not want to work will be free to look for another country".

Gorbachev backs Castro

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE POPE met Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, in the Vatican yesterday. The encounter came a day before the Pope is to have talks with President Castro of Cuba, one of the world's last remaining Marxist leaders.

Observers said the timing appeared to be deliberate. "The Pope and Gorbachev brought down Communism in Eastern Europe," one said. "The Pope wants to remind Castro that the system is bankrupt."

However, Mr Gorbachev,

who is in Rome to address an economics seminar, applauded Señor Castro's weekend complaint to the UN's World Food Summit that the sufferings of Cuba were the result of the 34-year "criminal and absurd" US embargo of the state rather than the failings of Communism. "Fidel did well to say what he did," he said. "The embargo is absurd."

Yesterday was Mr Gorbachev's fourth visit to the Vatican since 1989. Many, including himself, see that first trip as a landmark in the decline of Communism. Yesterday he said: "Your Holiness, I recall our first meeting

here, which led to the start of so many changes inside and outside the Soviet Union."

Señor Castro, who arrived in Rome in his trademark combat fatigues but later changed into a suit to address the food summit, dined with Gianni Agnelli, the head of Fiat. Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, urged him to make "a real change" in human rights in Cuba.

But the Cuban leader said there was no room for democratic reform in Cuba. "We are achieving miracles," he said. "And we have done this because our revolution opened the door."

control over the Falklands," he said. Speaking before talks with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Caruana also called for a long-term change in Britain's constitutional relations with the Rock. He said all vestiges of a colonial relationship should be scrapped in Britain's relations with the dependent territory of 30,000 people. A new constitution that reflected modern practice should also re-examine the role of the Governor and change the appointment of unelected officials.

"I have no agenda for breaking the political links with London," he said. "What we want is the process of decolonisation." He cited the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man as the kind of dependent relationship within the European Union he had in mind.

Last year Britain came close to threatening Gibraltar with direct rule, so exasperated was the Government with the refusal of Joe Bossano, the previous Gibraltar Prime Minister, to crack down on drug smuggling and money laundering.

Mr Caruana, who will see foreign affairs politicians from all parties during his two-day stay in Britain, was insistent that Gibraltar had turned over a new leaf since his election in May. His Government was deeply concerned about what he admitted was the unsavoury image Gibraltar had acquired.

"This did enormous damage to us," he said. "We were seen as a place that was off the rails and off the tracks."

Gibraltar will tighten controls on the sale of tobacco and make every effort to enforce EU directives to prevent money laundering, as well as clearing the backlog of others still to be enacted.

Mr Caruana said he wanted to step up co-operation with Spanish authorities on day-to-day law enforcement. But he expressed frustration with Spain's refusal to improve relations, ease border controls, or accept Gibraltar as a full member of the EU.

He warned Britain not to allow Spain to hold Gibraltar hostage in bilateral relations. "We want to engage Spain, but is Spain willing to participate with Gibraltar? Are they interested in Europeanisation, or only if they are making progress on their sovereignty claim?" For Gibraltar, sovereignty was absolutely non-negotiable, he said.

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Caruana: vestiges of colonial ties should be scrapped

Gibraltar 'to quit Nato if Spain wins southern control'

BY MICHAEL BIVON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IF NATO appointed a Spaniard as head of the alliance's southern command with control over Gibraltar, the colony would leave Nato, Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister, said yesterday.

Gibraltar would never accept any arrangement that gave Spain a chance to undermine the Rock's sovereignty. "The suggestion that this country could exercise any command and control is as offensive to the people of Gibraltar as the idea that Argentina should exercise

control over the Falklands," he said. Speaking before talks with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Caruana also called for a long-term change in Britain's constitutional relations with the Rock. He said all vestiges of a colonial relationship should be scrapped in Britain's relations with the dependent territory of 30,000 people. A new constitution that reflected modern practice should also re-examine the role of the Governor and change the appointment of unelected officials.

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Big enough, if you are.

The cutting edge of sanity

Psychosurgery is being used to combat severe mental illness, but the results are mixed.

Anjana Ahuja reports

Marilyn Capon is standing in her kitchen, counting the dishes on the draining board. The counting helps to blot out the disturbing images in her head — blood-spattered abattoirs, carcasses swinging silently, dead people. She won't identify the people in her irrational thoughts. "I'm not trying to be difficult," she says. "I'll be forever worrying about the fact I've told you. I don't want to tempt fate." Her twin tormentors, severe clinical depression and obsessive compulsive disorder, have defied hospital treatment, pills and electroconvulsive therapy.

In June, Marilyn, 40, underwent psychosurgery, or, as many prefer to call it, neurosurgery for mental disorder (NMD). The controversial operation involved burning out brain tissue in the frontal lobes, and was a final attempt to soothe her troubled mind.

Five months on, all she has to remember it by are two small scars on her forehead. Marilyn still rarely leaves her small ground-floor flat in Galleywood, near Chelmsford in Essex. She still endures the horrible thoughts, still exists on rice pudding and ice-cream (she is too tired to cook), and still depends on a weekly visit from her social worker. It takes her several hours to wash and dress. Sometimes she is too exhausted to feed Woo, her cat. She looks as though she would like to lie down and never wake up.

Psychosurgery didn't work for Marilyn. Nobody will be able to explain its failure, for psychosurgery is a medical mystery. All doctors know is that, in some people, killing off pea-sized portions of perfectly healthy brain tissue can alter mental state. The target is the ring-shaped limbic system in the centre of the brain. It is thought to play a crucial role in controlling our emotions.

This uncertainty is why the operation is made available only to the most desperate sufferers of depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, mania and anxiety. In fact, psychosurgery is offered at barely a handful of institutions around the world. In Britain, these include the Maudsley Hospital in south London, and the University of Wales Hospital in Cardiff. (Another inoperable aspect is that Cardiff surgeons destroy deeper tissue than that targeted by the London surgeons, but achieve the same result.)



"I was always energetic, smartly dressed, hard-working, and always good for a laugh and a joke. I will never accept this is how I am meant to be"

Of these, the Geoffrey Knight Institute at the Maudsley is the most active. Dr John Bartlett, a neurosurgeon, and Dr Paul Bridges, head psychiatrist at the institute, have overseen 1,200 operations. They are saddened that many doctors will not refer patients for psychosurgery.

"The problem is prejudice," Dr Bridges says. "People just don't seem to like the idea of psychosurgery because it sounds brutal. They just remember the old operations, where people were turned into cabbages and suffered all sorts of other severe side-effects. Now surgery is highly accurate and carefully controlled."

Dr Bridges is referring to psychosurgery's barbaric forerunner, the lobotomy. Popular in the Forties and Fifties, the removal of all or part of the frontal lobes made zombies of thousands before being abandoned. The modern version is far removed from its terrifying ancestor — two thin probes are inserted in the forehead of the

anaesthetised patient, and high-frequency radio waves emitted from the tip burn out tissue in moments. Despite this precision, controversy does remain. Those prepared to go under the knife today must convince a panel from the Mental Health Act Commission that they have given their free and full, informed consent.

Six out of ten patients, according to Dr Bridges, are cured or partially cured. Others claim a more cautious success rate of three in ten. Other sufferers see no change, or even see their conditions worsen as a result, although deterioration might be the natural progression of the disease. If the operation fails, patients cannot have it again because there is nothing left to burn out.

These failures, say critics, are the best argument against an ethically dubious practice whose worth has never been proved and whose scientific basis eludes explanation. Another concern is that psychosurgery offers false hope to those least able to cope with disappointment.

Dr Bridges, however, rejects this: "The suicide rate of people before operation is 15 per cent. After the operation, 1 per cent commit suicide. It is lifesaving." What of the charge that psychosurgery has never been properly evaluated? "If someone could come up with a treatment against which to compare it, I would welcome a randomised controlled trial. But there isn't anything comparable." Meanwhile, Dr Bridges says, doctors must offer desperate patients this one last chance: "Bearing in mind the suicide rate, we simply must go on helping."

Tony Bartholomew, a 43-year-old former bricklayer from Rotherham, south Yorkshire, was one of the lucky ones. A manic depressive from the age of 14, he has made several serious suicide attempts. In a *Network First* documentary to be screened tonight, he reveals what he planned to do if the operation failed: "I'd try not to do anything until my mum goes, and then when she goes, I'll go. I'd have nothing to lose

and I can stop all this suffering." In fact, the operation, in June, saved his life. "Within three weeks I was less depressed, and doctors have said things could get even better over the next two years," he says.

Now on medication, Tony is planning his first shopping expedition for years, and hopes to take up gardening again.

Meanwhile, Marilyn longs for the return of the life that was stolen from her after a nervous breakdown in 1982. It is hard to believe that this small, weary woman, dressed in unflattering leggings and baggy jumper ("I know it's not nice but they don't need ironing") was once a happy, lively hospital worker in a stable relationship.

Soon, it wasn't just tiredness and depression that got her down. Horrible images of dead animals started plaguing her after her beloved cat, Tiger, was run over. Marilyn recalls: "I couldn't bear to shut my eyes. I just kept seeing him lying there."

That incident, and the gruesome thoughts that followed, plunged her deeper into depression. One evening, she snapped. She ran around the house with a meat cleaver, and was taken into hospital. She lost her job and her common-law husband, and attempted suicide more times than she can remember. She would happily lose a limb in exchange for her sanity.

Her two sisters and her boyfriend Gary are supportive, and she keeps in touch with the friends she made in hospital. She is glad she tried the operation but realises that, bar some miracle cure, she will suffer until the day she dies.

She says: "I'm nothing like the real me. I was always energetic, smartly dressed, hard-working, and always good for a laugh and a joke. The comparison with me now is pathetic. Even if I live until I am 100, I will never accept this is how I am meant to be."

● *Network First: Psychosurgery, Damaging the Brain to Save the Mind. Tonight 11pm, 12.40pm.*

Why I miss the joys of office life

Simon Nye on the pleasures of swivel chairs and Tipp-Exing

It's nearly five years since I gave up working as an employee in an office and I miss it. I have noticed what a bad press the clerical life gets. Sick building syndrome, the suggestion that if you put two desks together staff will harass each other sexually, the supposed advantages of teleworking... If we're not careful we'll stigmatise office life to such an extent that nobody will enjoy it any more.

So listen up. Don't be ashamed if you enjoy ordering paper clips. Don't despise yourself because you have a fascination for the niceties of deskwork. Offices are sociable and warm. Offices are good.

I was a translator in the London office of a Swiss bank until I

gave it all up to write wryly observant television scripts, as I like to describe my work, or to do jokes, as my friends and family like to describe it. It was the pleasing little rituals I missed first — running my hand along the floor-to-ceiling carpeting in the lift, checking my e-mail box and finding largely nonsensical but cheerful messages from Simon in computers; watching bottoms go by; ripping the plastic cover off this month's copy of *Euro-banker* and tossing it into the bin with that special chunking sound; debating with my colleague Craig which of us should get the stationery.

Not convinced? Let the list at random some of the pleasures of the office. Lying down under the desk after lunch. Tipp-Exing. Smirking when superiors leave the room. Telling the temp how much you like her hair. Making your document-holder go belling.

The work, of course, may be hard and grinding, but that is the nature of work. At least in an office you usually get some kind of swivel chair to do it on. The status of office life over the last three decades can be charted crudely in TV terms. The 1970s saw the Reggie Perrin series in which Leonard Rossiter rebelled at the absurdities and unending repetitions of small company life. It

brilliantly captured the three legs of the stool of office life: thwarted lust, professional paranoia, and the tendency always to be 11 minutes late for work.

Attitudes to office life in 1980s were characterised by *Capital City*, the series set in a London merchant bank where everyone was young and lithe and wore suits that cost a teacher's monthly salary. Computers had arrived, turning workplaces from dingy paper mills into gently glowing nerve centres. Every executive had a basketball hoop. Office life was sexy and we were supposed to sleep with each other.

In the 1990s we are back to the office-as-nightmare. *Drop the Dead Donkey* shows a world of paranoia, backbiting and skulduggery. Nobody hugs at Globefink.

'Madonna ordering a batch of staples — I don't think so'

anyway, and occasionally someone leaves and you never know why.

And working in offices helps you to understand how other organisations operate. The fog of British politics clears when you realise that the Government is essentially a classic group of office employees. Michael Portillo, the sadistic head of security with the unreasonably crisp shirts. Ken Clarke, the chief salesman everyone wants to buy a drink. Michael Heseltine, the floppy-haired executive who does something but nobody's quite sure what.

Office life obviously wouldn't suit everyone. Paul Gascoigne wouldn't react well to the guess for the colour photocopies. Madonna, ordering up a batch of staples — I don't think so.

But the next time someone suggests that offices are full of drones lacking the sense to get a proper job that involves getting out and about in the fresh air, drape them in a sympathetic gaze and tell them about the simple pleasure of an hour spent serenely Tipp-Exing. If they nod off, just ignore them.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 1996

Stunning tax haul improves Clarke's hand

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

A STUNNING haul of tax receipts in October has given the Chancellor more room for manoeuvre in next week's Budget but the City still gave warning yesterday that tax cuts would be inappropriate when the economy is already showing robust growth.

The Government paid back £4.39 billion of borrowing in October, thanks to bumper corporation tax receipts helped by a bounce back in VAT and excise duties, which reflect healthy consumer spending. This was more than twice the debt repayment that the City had been expecting.

The net effect of yesterday's surprisingly good figures is that the City — and the Treasury — now believe that the Government is back on track to meet its £26.9 billion forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement this year. Earlier in the year, tax

revenues had been disappointing and the PSBR appeared to be overshooting that forecast.

The October repayment leaves cumulative borrowing at £11.36 billion, compared with £18.72 billion at the same stage last year. Taking privatisation proceeds out of the picture, the improvement is far less dramatic, with borrowing at £15.3 billion this year compared with £18.8 billion last year. Nevertheless, this is still a far better picture than earlier this year when the Government had made virtually no progress in reducing the deficit.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said that yesterday's figures were very good and put him back on track to meet the prediction made in the Treasury's Summer Forecast.

But, clearly keen to prevent an outburst of euphoria in advance of next week's Bud-

get, the Treasury was at pains to point out factors that exaggerated the positive news in October. Officials noted that healthy income tax receipts came after a number of poor months and simply put this source of revenue back in line with Treasury predictions. Some of October's strong bounce back in VAT receipts was also attributed to the effects of timing that brought forward some of the taxes normally expected in November and December.

On corporation tax, which totalled £9.1 billion compared with £7.3 billion last year, it said that October normally saw a preponderance of payments from financial companies, which have been much more profitable than industrial and commercial companies who tend to pay in January. In other words, the Treasury is warning that January's corporation tax is unlikely to be as good as October's.

But, in spite of such caveats, yesterday's numbers were clearly very welcome news. David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, said that a feasible Budget package would now include spending cuts of £2 billion, net tax cuts of £3 billion and a lowering of the PSBR forecast for next year, from £23.4 billion to around £20-£21 billion.

However, there were warning voices, too. Kevin Darlington, of Hoare Govett, noted that Mr Clarke had forecast in his November 1993 Budget that the PSBR would have fallen by 5 per cent of GDP whereas the out-turn would be nearer to 3.5 per cent. "In the light of such a track record and the still high level of public borrowing at what might prove to be the peak of the economic cycle, pleasant surprises like this should be banked, not spent," he said.

The British government bond market ended modestly higher after the news but the rally was cautious, with investors still hoping for a tight Budget, given worries about the economy's robust growth and possible inflationary pressures. Sterling's effective index against a basket of currencies closed at 92.0, unchanged from Friday's close, while the FT-SE 100 index closed only 3.9 higher, at 3,962.1.

Janet Bush, page 31

Panic buyers in hunt for houses

By Robert Miller

A SHORTAGE of houses for sale has led to "panic buying" in some areas of the country by people scared of missing out on a housing boom, according to a new survey published today.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) says that October, which broke with tradition by outperforming September for the first time since 1982, also saw the fourteenth consecutive month-on-month increase in the proportion of chartered surveyors reporting house price rises.

The RICS, which polls more than 250 members for its housing market survey, says that a major driving force behind the record monthly increases is the general shortage of properties. London and the South East "fired ahead", according to the latest survey, while East Angles and the South West continued to see rising prices and activity. In the North, certain types of property sold well and there was a "brisk" trade in char-

acter houses in beauty spots such as the Lake District, reflecting a rising demand for holiday homes.

Ian Perry, of the RICS, said: "Many potential vendors are waiting for higher prices in 1997, while would-be purchasers become increasingly frustrated by the lack of choice. There are reports of panic buying in some areas. This is due to a misplaced fear of missing out on a 'property boom'."

"An expected influx of properties starting in the new year will tend to temper price increases and restore a sense of proportion to the market."

The RICS said that the strong market recovery "certainly does not need any help from the Chancellor in his forthcoming Budget". The current market imbalance is "fuelled by a general increase in demand, a race to beat the deadline for attractive fixed-rate mortgage offers and more people wanting to move from renting to owning", it added.



Revenue demands £1.17m from Chelsea Football Club

By Jason Nisse

CHELSEA Football Club, the Premiership club owned by the AIM-listed Chelsea Village, is facing a demand for £1.17 million on unpaid tax after an investigation by the Inland Revenue.

The club is contesting the demand, but has listed it as a contingent liability in its accounts of Chelsea Village, which have been sent to shareholders but not yet filed at Companies House.

The demand is nearly twice the operating profits of Chelsea in the financial year ended June 30. The club, whose deputy chairman, Matthew

Harding, died in a helicopter crash last month, is trying to raise £30 million to complete the redevelopment of its ground at Stamford Bridge.

Reports at the weekend suggested that Ken Bates, Chelsea's chairman, had approached Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrod's, about investing in the club, but these have been dismissed.

Chelsea shares yesterday rose 1p to 120p, giving a market value of £162 million.

The tax claim against Chelsea is believed to be the highest demand made by the Revenue as part of its two-year in-

quiry into the Premier League. Tax experts say that the Revenue is in talks with a number of clubs about unpaid tax, with heavy scrutiny on transfer payments, particularly relating to players from abroad.

Chelsea paid no tax in either of the last two financial years, in spite of making operating profits in both periods. After transfer fees, the company made a profit of £1.51 million in 1994-95 and incurred a loss of £2.95 million in 1995-96.

Alan Shaw, company secretary of Chelsea Village, said it was appealing against the Revenue's demand.

George defends role as watchdog

By Robert Miller
Banking Correspondent

THE GOVERNOR of the Bank of England yesterday mounted a spirited defence of the Bank's role as a watchdog in the face of hostile questions from MPs.

Eddie George, flanked by Michael Foot, an executive director of the Bank and Ian Watt, an adviser, countered criticisms that included one of "supervisory complacency" from members of the Commons Treasury Select Committee, which is conducting its own inquiry into the £830 million collapse of Barings.

Diane Abbott, a Labour member, asked why it was that on each occasion after the crashes of Johnson Matthey, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and Barings, the Bank said: "We have the best system in the world, banks will inevitably collapse and we are sharpening up our act."

Mr George, who said he found questions from Brian Sedgemore, another Labour member, about Brian Quinn, former Deputy Governor of the Bank and now a director at Nomura, "offensive", replied: "We have taken a great deal of action to sharpen up our act."

On the role of senior executives at Barings at the time of the crash, and in particular Andrew Tuckey, the former deputy chairman, and Peter Norris, who was chief executive officer, Mr Sedgemore said: "I know a jury at the Old Bailey who would acquit nine out of ten cases that came before them but wouldn't acquit Tuckey and Norris."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3962.1	(+3.9)
Yield	3.99%	
FTSE All share	1948.57	(+0.42)
Nikkei	8076.57	(-133.36)
Dow Jones	8242.07	(-5.98)
S&P Composite	735.53	(-2.09)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	100.74 (100.74)
Yield	6.45% (6.45%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	8.75% (8.75%)
Life long bill	110% (110%)
Future (Dec)	110% (110%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6700* (1.6833)
London	1.6710 (1.6833)
DM	2.5100 (2.5134)
FF	6.4944 (6.4910)
SP	2.2120 (2.2308)
Yen	185.23 (185.14)
£ index	92.0 (92.0)

DOLLAR	
London	1.6010* (1.6093)
DM	5.0750* (5.0853)
FF	1.2657* (1.2788)
Yen	111.20* (111.08)
£ index	99.1 (99.2)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (15-day Jan)	\$22.05 (\$22.60)

GOLD	
London close	\$379.55 (\$379.75)

* denotes midday trading price	
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Budget fear

Insurers fear that the Government is considering more than doubling taxes on motor and household insurance premiums to 6 per cent in the Budget from the present insurance premium tax rate of 2.5 per cent. Page 28

Telekom dials instant profit

By Oliver August

INVESTORS in Deutsche Telekom shared instant paper profits of £1.4 billion when the German telephone group floated on the New York and Frankfurt stock exchanges yesterday.

The shares rose from the DM28.50 offer price to DM33.90 during floor trading on the Frankfurt bourse. German traders said the flotation, Europe's biggest ever, had resulted in one of the busiest days in the bourse's history. Some 38 million Telekom shares changed hands.

At 9.30am, an official's shout of "DM33.20" opened the floodgate to frantic order activity. More than 100 dealers waved their order-books at the official brokers backed up by the advising banks Goldman Sachs, Dresdner and Deutsche Bank.

The shares are likely to plot an erratic course over the next few days before finding a more stable trend, traders and analysts said. The key influence on Deutsche Telekom trading in the short-term will be the positive effect of institutions seeking to buy in the open market what they could not get in the allotment of the heavily oversubscribed issue.

"That's certainly happening. We are seeing institutions, even in Germany, that only got

around half of what they were after," said one analyst.

Telekom was by far the most-heavily traded German share, outpacing such blue-chip standards as Siemens, the electronics and engineering group, and BASF, the pharmaceutical company. Demand for the shares had outpaced supply by about five times, despite a last-minute 20 per cent increase in the issue size.

The size of the demand led to an allocation among domestic and international investors that dealers described as "very thin". German investors took two thirds of the issue, with the rest going abroad. British institutional investors received less than 10 per cent.

"This could be the highest level we will get for the shares for the next few days," one trader said, adding that he thought the share could fall back to about DM30.

Small investors, who were encouraged to participate in the flotation bonanza through a 50 pence discount per share, could start to sell their allotments this week. If they take profits, they will each have made about £700 on an investment of £3,000.

Sea change, page 13

Barbie takes the wheel in Matchbox deal

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BARBIE and her maker, Mattel, the world's largest toy company, are tightening their grip on the multi-billion-dollar toy market with the announcement of a \$755 million merger with Tyco, America's third-largest toy company. The deal will link Barbie with the celebrated Matchbox miniature cars and remote-controlled vehicles produced by Tyco, creating a company with annual sales of more than \$5 billion.

The all-paper deal has been approved by both boards. A big deal was widely expected after the failure of Mattel's unsolicited \$5.2 billion bid for Hasbro, the second-largest toy-maker, this year. Hasbro spurned Mattel's advances, citing insurmountable antitrust problems, but it has now been left in an awkward position in the cut-throat world of toys.

Tyco was an obvious merger candidate. Its shares have languished at between \$5 and \$7 for the past two years, resisting all attempts

by the management to boost the company's performance. Net income in the third quarter this year rose slightly to \$9.6 million on sales of \$256.3 million. Despite the lacklustre performance, however, Mattel is paying \$12.50 a share for Tyco, a premium of 78 per cent. As well as Barbie, Mattel produces brands such as the Fisher-Price toys and Hot Wheels. The company said these would combine well with Tyco's main products which include Sesame Street charac-

ters and View-Master 3D video games, as well as Matchbox.

Should Barbie harbour the ambition to move from clothes modelling into films, the merger could be her big chance. Last month Tyco launched a camcorder for children between six and 12 years old. It weighs less than a pound, costs \$100 and shoots black and white pictures. It can be linked to the family's video to play back the work of every pint-sized Spielberg who owns one.

Actor John Goodman with Elmo, of Sesame Street, licensed to Tyco



Actor John Goodman with Elmo, of Sesame Street, licensed to Tyco

Starting at 6.74% APR

Our competitive 'Election Cap' will protect you for 5 years against rate rises, should they exceed 7.95% (8.4% APR).

CALL 0800 71 81 91

Interest rates seem to be on the rise again, which is why this is such a good deal for five years, your payments go down should rates fall, but will never rise beyond 7.95% (8.4% APR). And note: the average rate over the last five years has been 8.72%. For more details, call us now.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

JOHN CHARCOL

Questions over Dieter Bock's role □ Guide to legal insider trading □ ABI's fears seem justified

Lonrho's Tiny point of principle

WHAT a peculiar company Lonrho is. A couple of hundred respectable pensioners turn up at Kensington Town Hall to throw a few bricks at directors and oppose the £327 million sale of the Metropole hotels. Sir John Leahy, Lonrho's chairman, has the comfort of 421 million proxies, so it is all about a deal that is already as good as done.

So far, so typical. But Lonrho's board, and Sir John in particular, do not inspire much confidence. Sir John yesterday confessed his ignorance of the workings of the hotel cycle — an issue central to the merits of the Metropole deal. He went on to be vague about Lonrho's strategy, and to make it clear that he has no great appetite for his job. This is, let us remember, the chairman of a £1 billion company that is planning to split itself in two over the next few months.

And then there is the ghostly presence of Dieter Bock — no longer the chief executive, no longer a shareholder, but apparently still keen to take a major interest in Lonrho's African trading businesses after the demerger. Why has Mr Bock sold out his 18.3 per cent stake to Anglo American Corporation, seemingly weakening his bargaining power ahead of the key negotiations? The recent sale made a £100 million profit for

Mr Bock but has triggered a collapse in Lonrho's share price.

Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's founder, had this to say: "It is a clear conflict of interest for Mr Bock to remain on the board where his knowledge of the company's affairs will help him bargain with Lonrho. Mr Bock can't work in the interests of the company or its shareholders as a member of Lonrho's board, when at the same time he is trying to negotiate a deal for himself. Why has the board allowed Mr Bock to remain?"

It is a question that this extraordinary company would do well to answer.

Debt loophole must be plugged

YOU are a struggling public company finally forced to admit that trading will never pull you out of the hole, and pay off your massive debts. The time has come to pull all your bankers into a huddle and discuss a financial restructuring, to convert some of that debt into equity. There will follow weeks,

stretching into months, of agonised negotiations, lots of table-thumping, irritating leaks to the press, probably the odd strategic walk-out. Shareholders will inevitably suffer and it is not yet possible to assess the damage to the value of their holdings. The only people who can take any sensible view are the management and those banks who are party to the negotiations.

Should one of those bankers, learning of something that suggests shareholders are in for a rougher ride than anyone had expected, pick up the phone and suggest the broking side of his business dumps the shares pronto, and should that trade be carried out, all concerned are probably guilty of a criminal offence. I say probably, because the law on insider dealing as governed by the 1993 Criminal Justice Act is a fragile one, and some curious decisions have emerged from the courts. In fact, this sort of thing happens quite a lot in the City, but it should not. Stockbrokers have gone to jail for actions such as these, if perhaps not in sufficiently large numbers yet.



But there is one example of flagrant insider dealing that is quite legal. That banker could quite cheerfully pick up the phone to colleagues and instruct them to deal, on the basis of information known only to insiders, and it would not be a matter for any court of law. This is in the growing market of debt trading, and the reason it lies outside the criminal law is that this market barely existed when the rules were drawn up.

The borrowings of companies such as Brent Walker and Eurotunnel, to name two notable examples, are freely traded at a percentage of their face value, that percentage based on the chances of the debt being repaid in full. Specialist traders

exist, complete with their own research teams. Once a company goes into the half-life that is a financial restructuring, the duties of the board, and how they are required to distinguish between the interests of shareholders and creditors, become rather vague. But the banks can do pretty well what they will, and they do. They are clearly in a far better position to know the risks than ordinary shareholders, who must be kept outside the charmed circle of negotiations. Yet the rule is still *caveat emptor*; you deal with a well-connected bank at your peril.

It is perfectly clear that shareholders' interests demand some change, whether to bring debt trading within the insider trading laws or, perhaps better, to ban banks once negotiations have started from trading in debt at all. This had better happen before the next round of financial restructurings that will almost certainly be needed once interest rates ratchet up again.

A final thought. Companies can use section 212 notices to find out the owner of quite small chunks of their equity. But there

is no matching facility to discover who owns the borrowings that might one day convert into a large number of shares.

Good time to raise tax on insurance

THE Association of British Insurers is probably pushing on a firmly closing door in trying to oppose any increase in insurance premium tax (IPT) in next week's Budget. The tax came in three years ago as an alternative to VAT on non-life insurance premiums, and the rates that apply to such policies on the Continent are far higher than the 2.5 per cent that applies in the UK, being much closer to the proper VAT rate. Ergo, on the basis that closer European harmonisation means the importation of the worst practices from the Continent, why not push up rates to the insured to the 6 per cent that is now rumoured?

The truth, of course, is that this is an imposition that is seen to hurt no one, that hardly shows on the household bills, and that no one in consequence complains

about — a little like the airport tax that adds a few pounds to the cost of each holiday. Disregard the fact that IPT is levied on medical insurance, so a raise would seem to cut against the principle that we should be encouraged to take care of our own future welfare needs. Better to raise the rate now, at a time when the insurance cycle is widely seen to have turned and higher premiums are on the way for all in due course.

Soundbite sample

THE debate on Labour's draft utilities tax is now over at Westminster with the politicians, which means rational thought has been replaced by the soundbite. Brian Mawhinney's claim that the tax could cost consumers more than £200 a year is a classic example, assuming as it does that the lost funds would be clawed back entirely from customers, rather coming from lower dividends and higher company debt. Dr Mawhinney has a final shot. His figures might be wrong; why doesn't Gordon Brown come clean and admit Labour's precise tax plans, so removing all doubt? Indeed, and with the uncertainty among those contemplating taking out new insurance policies, would Ken Clarke today care to give us the details of his Budget?

Thorn alert knocks 10% off shares

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CAUTIOUS WORDS from Thorn on prospects for next year sent the rental group's shares diving 10 per cent yesterday as it unveiled its first set of interim results since splitting from EMI.

Mike Metcalf, chief executive of Thorn, which emerged from EMI in August, said that tough trading conditions in America and a delay in cutting costs in the UK would "have some impact on the outlook for the next financial year".

Shares in the company, which operates the Radio Rental and Crazy George's chains in the UK and Rest-A-Center in the US, closed down 34p at 313½p.

Retail analysts reduced their full-year forecasts, with Tony Shire, of BZW, shifting from £187 million to £182 million for this year and from £202 million to £195 million for next year. "[For Thorn] to make these statements now is very disappointing," he said.

The company reported pre-tax profit after exceptional charges for the six months to September 30 of £37.8 million

compared with £71.5 million a year ago. Underlying pre-tax profit rose to £79.3 million, but was hit by a provision covering the disposal of 182 properties that reverted to Thorn from Escam after it went into receivership earlier this year.

The delay in cutting UK costs comes from the failure to complete the roll-out of Thornlink, a national service call centre, by the end of this year. It is now likely by the end of 1997, Mr Metcalf said.

The temporary closure of the first Paris branch of Crazy George's after complaints that its advertising might mislead some customers into overpaying for goods had attracted a huge wave of public interest, he said. Crazy George's rents electrical goods and furniture to people who have difficulty obtaining credit. Customers can choose an "option to own", but end up paying much more than if they were to buy the goods outright.

Sixteen new branches of Crazy George's opened in the UK in the first half, making a total of 47. A total of 275 are planned. The Paris branch, closed last week after one day's trading, is likely to reopen in about a week.

The company is facing difficulties on two fronts in America. It said sales that in the second quarter were disappointing. The company also faces legal challenges in several states that do not have legislation covering rental-purchase agreements.

The interim dividend of 3.7p (3.4p) is on the back of earnings per share of 12p (10.9p) and is payable on February 28.



Metcalf: first results

Times, page 30

Diploma maintains dividend

By FRASER NELSON

DIPLOMA, the electronics and building products company, is maintaining the annual dividend at 14.5p a share after suffering a 14 per cent downturn in pre-tax profits to £23.5 million in the year ended September 30.

Christopher Thomas, chairman and chief executive, said that the company was in much better health than the figures suggested, in spite of suffering difficult market conditions.

Sales rose to £235 million from £216 million, helped by contributions from Albacon Telecom and Hercules Hydraulics, its two US acquisitions. Earnings dropped to 27p a share from 31.7p, but the final dividend was held at 10p.

Diploma's electronics component distribution business was hit by over-supply and price cuts, which hit margins. However, it said that conditions should recover next year.

Mr Thomas said that its acquisition of Eldersteel, a stainless steel stockholder, was poorly timed. Bought last November, it was hit by a 30 per cent drop in mill prices. Mr Thomas said that the division was unlikely to become profitable for another six months.

Pensions windfall lifts 600 Group

By PAUL DURMAN

600 GROUP, the machine tool manufacturer, has received a £15 million repayment from the company's pension scheme, which lifted pre-tax profits from £4.8 million to £20.4 million in the six months to September 30.

Colin Gaskell, group managing director, said that the £150 million pension fund still had a surplus of around £20 million and he expects the company will continue to enjoy a pension contribution holiday for several years.

Trading profits were also strong, increasing by 66 per cent to £5.1 million. This was based on a rise in sales of only 5 per cent, to £67.2 million, in the period. However, 600's shares fell 17p to 249½p. One explanation was that Casenove, the company's broker, had cut its profit forecast, although the company still expects further growth in the second half.

Dr Gaskell, who will be 60 in May, is to be succeeded by Tony Sweeten, who heads the machine tool division.

The interim dividend is doubled, to 15p a share.


Times, page 30

Toyota Camry**

More luxury specifications***

Less than any

in its class*****



THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

*No, we haven't just changed the design of the ash-tray and stuck a light in the glove compartment. When we say new, we mean new. New styling as you can see, new interior, new everything. **OK, apart from the name. ***So now you're thinking "this is where they say more specifications in the headline and then try to sneak out of it down here in the small print," aren't you? Well, as a matter of fact, you're wrong. The Camry really does have more specs than Elton John: ABS, climate-control air-conditioning, electric windows, sun-roof, and mirrors and lots more we could mention. All right then will mention: RDS stereo cassette, remote alarm/immobiliser, foglamps, wood-grain trim, twin airbags and, on the 2.2 Camry Sport, Connolly leather seats, body styling package and 17" alloy wheels. Whatever happened to trust, by the way? ****You're not half a suspicious lot. But just so it's clear, the Camry V6, (still spec'd up to the eyeballs as per the footnote above mind you) is nearly four thousand pounds cheaper than the otherwise excellent Vauxhall Omega CDX, and over ten thousand pounds cheaper (!) than a Mercedes E230 Classic, to take two totally random (but comparably specified) examples. *****(kar), sb. Wheeled vehicle. b. = MOTOR CAR. *****There are three new Camry models in all. The 2.2 (£19,599), the V6 (£24,509) and from January, the 2.2 Camry Sport shown above, which comes in at £23,175, on the road — excluding rear seat belts. Only joking, they're included, they're included. Call 0800 777 555 and order one.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Merger talk fires up Shell and British Gas shares

TALK of a £40 billion merger between British Gas and Shell might seem like so much hot air, but it was just what City speculators were looking for on a cold November day.

For weeks, City folk have been talking of a possible bid for British Gas. Weekend reports on "Project Napoleon" suggested the likely bidder was Shell, even though both sides were privately denying the story yesterday. Even so, British Gas raced up 19½p to 228½p, extending Friday's rise as HSBC James Capel and UBS, a rival broker, gave the price their support. In heavy turnover a massive 34.1 million shares change hands.

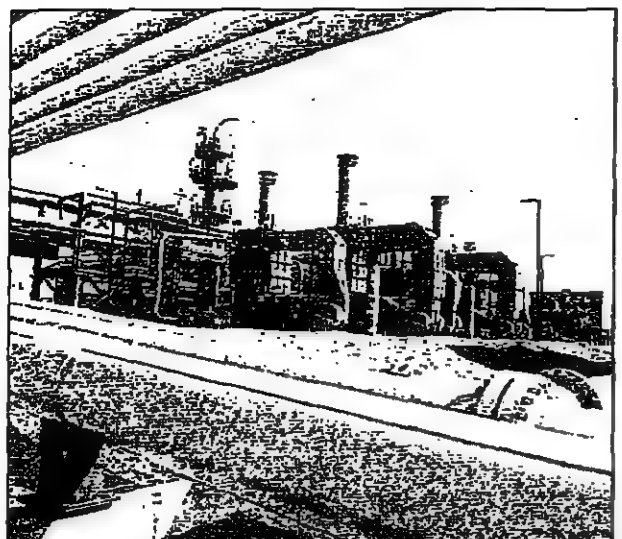
But while brokers refuse to rule out a bid for British Gas at some stage, most think the company ready to make such a move. They point to regulatory and gas supply contracts as hurdles to any deal. Cash-rich Shell finished 10½p dearer at 990½p.

It was left up to another strong performance by the bond market to keep the rest of the equity market aloft. In thin trading, the FT-SE 100 index fluctuated in narrow limits for much of the day.

Opening with an eight-point rise in response to another record-breaking performance by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York on Friday, it soon moved into negative territory, weighed down by a large number of overvalued shares. It ended the session 3.9 points up at 3,962.1 as turnover reached 707 million shares, partly inflated by the turnover in British Gas.

British Energy, floated off earlier this year, rose 2½p to a new high of 120p after a maiden figures on Thursday. Elsewhere, in electricity, Yorkshire Electricity was chased 1½p higher at 746½p on mounting speculation about a bid from Entergy, the US power company. Northern Electric, currently fighting off the unwanted attentions of CE Electric, fell 12½p to 590½p after publishing its defence document. The group is offering shareholders a special dividend if they stay loyal. London Electric was another firm market, climbing 10½p to 636½p.

The recent revival in shares of Philip Morris, the US tobacco and food group, on Wall Street has begun rubbing off on BAT Industries, up 9p



British Gas raced up 19½p to 228½p, extending Friday's rise

at 436p. The City gave a cool reception to maiden interim figures from the newly-demerged Thorne, with the price tumbling 34p to 313½p on turnover of more than four million shares. Pre-tax profits of £79.3 million, against £71.5 million last time, were before exceptional and roughly in line with market forecasts, but 75½p, will market the drug worldwide. Vanguard came to

their earlier profit forecasts of about £13 million.

Rushmore Wyman fell 4½p to 2p after announcing it could make a loss in the ten months to September. It follows the sale of HS Printers and subsequent write-offs.

Provided, the vending machine supplier, made a slow start to first-time trading on the stock market, with the price opening at just a 1p premium to its offer price of 125p. It later slipped to 124p before picking up to end the day at 132½p, a premium of 7½p on turnover of 2.15 million shares. Provident was the subject of a management buyout from Sketchley in 1990.

Card Clear, the supplier of card payment and fraud prevention services, firmed 2½p to 32p after announcing details of a joint venture with Vodafone to validate credit cards. Its recent merger with Cardcash has also gone unconditional.

Maiden figures from Fibertec, a newcomer, lifted the shares 2½p to 124½p. Losses from the supplier of high-speed digital networks were down on last year. Its own broker, East Middleton, is forecasting a further deficit for 1997 and a surplus in 1998.

GI GILT-EDGED: The London bond market was able to extend recent gains supported by the bigger than expected budget deficit repayment figure of £4.39 billion. Brokers argued that this latest move might give the Chancellor more scope for manoeuvre in next week's Budget.

Sentiment was also bolstered by the Bank of England's decision to open up the opportunity for more overseas investors to be paid their dividends without being taxed at source.

In the futures pit business was described as brisk for a Monday as the December series of the Long Gilt climbed £½ to £110½, with a total of £4,000 contracts completed.

In long, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £16 to £102½, while among shorter-dated coupons, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £13½ better at £103.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks hesitated in their two-week surge, with technology stocks succumbing to profit-taking and blue chips posting mild losses. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 5.96 points to 6,342.07.

market in May this year at 450p a share.

A profits warning saw shares of Forward Group plunge 14½p to 132p, wiping £81 million from the group's stock market value of £154 million. Dextonking, and the reluctance of customers to place fresh orders are likely to wipe out all the group's profits in the second half. As a result, brokers have almost halved

Thornlink subsidiary and currency factors have prompted brokers to downgrade their estimates for the full year. Nick Bubb, of Messers, the broker, expects to reduce his forecast from £192 million to the £185 million level.

Brokers gave the thumbs down to half-year figures from 600 Group, with the price dropping 17p to 349½p amid signs of a slowdown in the US

British Aerospace held at £11.43, despite the consortium of which it is a member being eliminated from the shortlist to build a new generation of US fighter aircraft. A number of brokers have spoken up for BAe, highlighting its already strong order book. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull is a buyer up to £13.

British Gas: NO BID, BUT SPECULATORS CHASE SHARES HIGHER

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

British Gas share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

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British Gas share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

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Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

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Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 6342.07 (-5.96) S&P Composite 735.53 (-2.09)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 2079.27 (-133.38)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 13042.00 (-153.43)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 610.04 (-1.18)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2363.8 (-3.5)

Frankfurt: DAX 2763.84 (-31.94)

Singapore: Straits 2178.03 (-15.01)

Brussels: CAC 40 10260.32 (-22.43)

Paris: CAC 40 2228.81 (-11.52)

Zurich: SMI 2000 819.40 (-1.50)

London: FT 100 2777.7 (+1.18)

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TEMPUS

Coming out of its Shell?

THE risk for any large integrated oil company is that it turns into a low growth utility and Shell is no exception. Assets acquired and nurtured over decades are generating a flood of cash but oil and gas reserves are slowly being depleted. Shell needs to reinvest in new assets capable of generating better returns but few projects are big enough to make a difference and the oil company has been investing below budget.

Over the weekend, rumours surfaced that Shell was in talks with British Gas. But it was the possibility for growth why then would it bid for a utility? Admittedly, the gas company has a few attractive upstream assets: the Morecambe Bay field for example and the Armada gas project in the North Sea, while BG's stake in the Karachaganak gas field in Kazakhstan has some speculative value. But

the bulk of British Gas is Transco, the pipelines company. While Transco is on the examination table at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, it remains a valuation minefield, but whatever the outcome it looks an unattractive prospect. The regulator is prepared to tolerate a pre-tax return of about 7 per cent for Transco, which hardly approaches Shell's target of a net return of 12 per cent over the cycle.

If the numbers make little sense on a cursory view, the greater risk for Shell would be the possible loss of its high share rating. Shell is the classic widows and orphans stock, offering reliable but unspectacular growth. Unused to the rough and tumble of a takeover bid, Shell is better off negotiating hard on "take-or-pay" contracts and picking upstream cherries as they fall from the troubled utility.

schemes, then they will stay away.

This is unfortunate because France, with its economic problems, is one of

Thorn's best potential markets. Thorn admits that the US is very competitive in

management, however, thinks that the closure after one day's trading will put its name in lights.

However, the French Government is objecting to the Crazy George's advertising and accusations that impoverished customers would be trapped into paying inflated prices for goods.

If Thorn is to expand Crazy George's in France and across the Continent, it needs to do more than exploit sudden notoriety.

Thorn's recent success is good, but if potential customers think they are being asked to overpay under Crazy George's rent-to-buy

credit, falling unemployment, falling is not the best climate for Crazy George's.

Moreover, retailers on both sides of the Atlantic are offering more flexible credit arrangements, bringing a wider spectrum of customers into the credit net. That leaves just the very poor and very disadvantaged for Crazy George's to pursue.

RENTAL IN ARREARS

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Thorn share price

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYWaigel misses
out on Telekom

THEO WAIGEL, the German Finance Minister, turned up ten minutes too late for the investor party of the year. He missed yesterday's news conference for the high-profile listing of Deutsche Telekom, explaining that "Frankfurt traffic was not a problem. It was fog in south Germany which made me late". Asked later whether he had joined millions of Germans in snapping up stock in the state-owned firm, he said: "As an insider, I couldn't buy Telekom shares. But, if I wasn't Finance Minister, I definitely would have bought them."

Clarke and chips

THE Chancellor was lining his stomach at The Greenhouse yesterday, a week before the Budget. Enamoured alongside his PPS, the Chancellor tucked into a lunch of deep-fried foie gras, followed by chicken, washed down with white wine. He was, however, caught looking longingly at a fellow diner's side order of chips. "I thought Monday was a little bit too early for chips," he whispered. Roll on next Tuesday.



"Would we accept Zola in settlement of Chelsea's £1m unpaid tax bill?"

Budget bets

MEANWHILE, City Index is watching over more mundane matters. Now that the spread betting specialist's merger with Sporting Index has fallen through, Jonathan Sparkes, City Index's managing director, has turned his attention to the Budget. City Index is quoting a price for how long the Chancellor will speak and how many slugs of whisky he will take. Sparkes is also going to quote on how long it is before Ken utters the words "betting ban".

Worldly Blair

HARRODS BANK'S latest newsletter, makes an interesting reference to Tony Blair and beauty contests. Hidden in an interview with Andrew Logan, a client at Harrods Bank and mastermind of the *Alternative Miss World* film, is a little known fact about Blair. As a barrister, Blair successfully defended the makers of the film, after the organisers of the original competition objected to the use of "Miss World" in the title. Thanks to Blair, Lord Denning judged that no one could confuse the two events. "He hasn't got detention eyes," Logan protests. "They're lovely."

Berkeley backers

SO, WHO is behind Berkeley Playhouse? Stand up Colin Emson, chairman of Robert Fraser Asset Management, another would-be hipster behind the project to finance London's eagerly awaited "table dancing" club. As a part-time finance director in the Berkeley Playhouse, the polka financier will initially have a 5.38 per cent stake, though this could soar on the up-market strip joint's success. John Bottomley, another senior executive from Robert Fraser, is also a non-executive director and company secretary at the Playhouse.

MORAG PRESTON

Bill without a cause places
strike laws on the agenda

Summer disputes
prompted today's
consultation
paper, says
Philip Bassett

When Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, today announces his new proposals for curbing strikes in British industry, he will do so in the awkward knowledge that the stoppages which have prompted them — in the Post Office, on the railways, on the London Underground — are all settled: a Bill without a cause.

Yet that will not deter the Government from pressing ahead with plans for new laws on strikes. Behind the polls, it believes that the strikes over the summer brought employee relations, and especially strikes, back on to the public, and so the electoral agenda — and ministers are determined to seize the moment if they can.

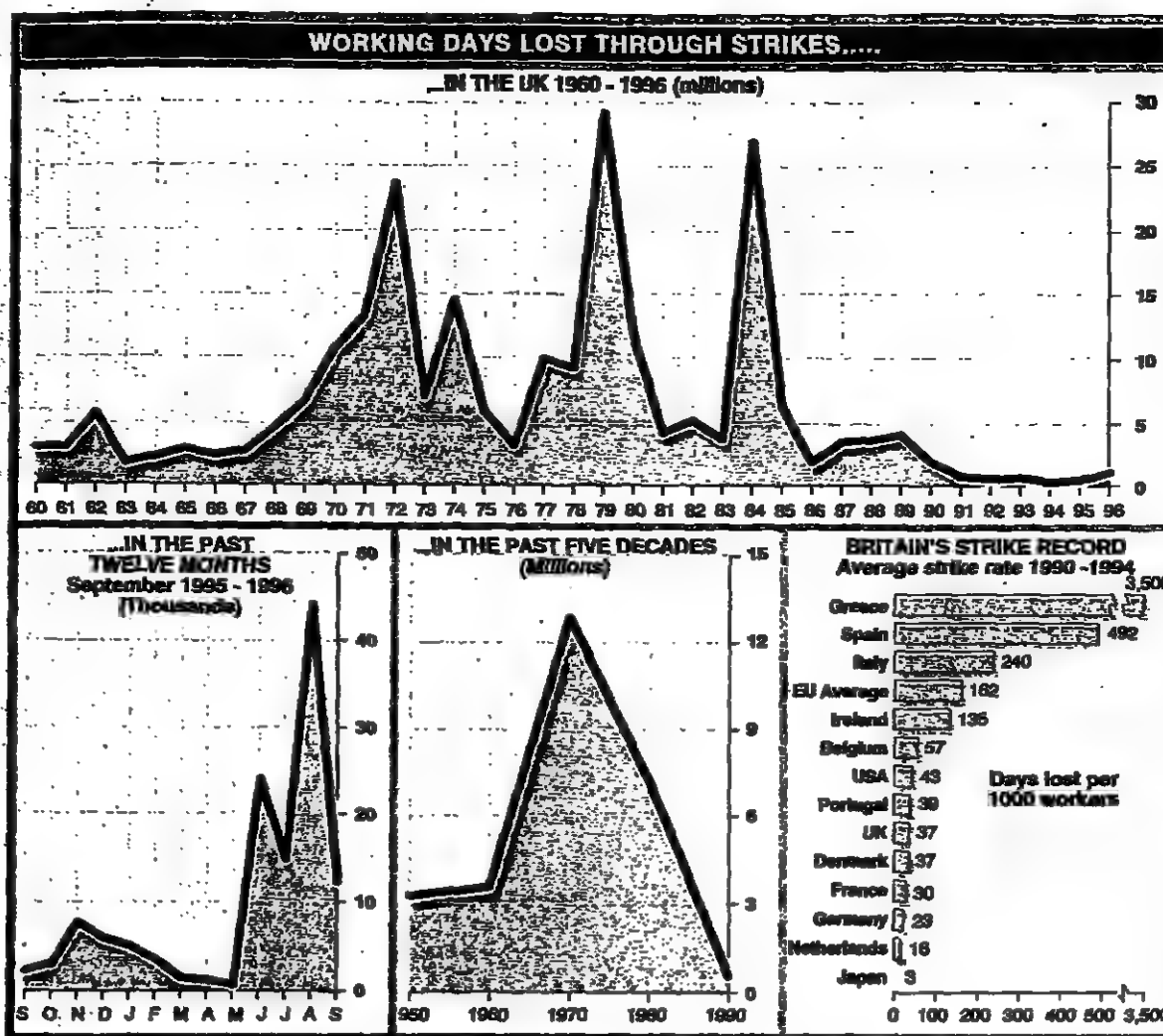
The flurry of industrial disputes over the summer certainly altered Britain's strike story. As the graphics show, in the 1950s and 1960s, strike activity was relatively low, despite being seen as the era of "I'm all right, Jack": an average of about 3.5 million working days were lost through strikes each year.

The 1970s saw an explosion in strike activity, with key strikes by miners, car workers and public service employees. Although the vast majority of people never went on strike, such big disputes pushed up the annual average in the 1970s to some 12.8 million working days lost. The winter of discontent that ushered in the Conservative Government, big strikes in the coal, civil service and water sectors, culminating in the 1984-85 miners' strike, helped to keep strike activity at a high level in the 1980s, with an average of 7.2 million days lost.

This summer's strikes, coupled with strikes over working time in the engineering industry in 1990, have pushed the 1990s average close to 1980s levels — even though before this summer, ministers have correctly been able to claim that strike activity in Britain has been at its lowest level since strike records began more than a century ago.

But the return of strikes this summer cast doubt over what is widely considered as probably the most unequivocal success of the Conservatives since coming into office in 1979 on the crest of a wave of anti-union feeling: the reform of employee relations in Britain, and especially of the UK's trade unions. In a sense, ministers left the strikes signalled unfinished business: tough competitive realities, and the advent of inward investors such as Nissan and Toyota, had helped to render strikes all but defunct in the private sector, and a combination of privatisation and hard-learned lessons had scaled them back heavily in the public sector.

But in what ministers came to identify as so-called monopoly public services, such as the Royal Mail and on the railways, where union membership was high and union power still strong, employees could still wield industrial leverage through strikes. With people walking to work and mail not being delivered, and with an election in



prospect and the Government's most signal achievement under threat, ministers were determined to act.

Today's move by Mr Lang, publishing a new set of proposals to deal with strikes in a consultative paper is the result. Proclaiming at once both a "revolution in British industrial relations", and the fact that "some problems remain", Mr Lang, in his introduction to a draft version of the document, said: "The Government believes there is now widespread recognition that the right to call strikes should be constrained within reasonable limits. Trade unions and their members pursuing a particular dispute must take account of the broader interests of the community."

Statistically, the Government helps to make its case today by showing in the consultative paper that in the past four years, strikes in the public sector — education, health and administration — and the utilities, such as gas, electricity, water, post, telecommunications and railways, have formed 60-80 per cent of the total number of working days lost through strikes — far higher than at any point since the early 1970s.

The draft document accepts the economic drive behind this: "The current upturn in strikes is probably prompted in part by economic growth, and the continuing fall in unemployment. The perception that their employees' businesses are doing better, and that there is no readily available supply of replacement labour is likely to increase workers' willingness to strike."

What ministers have to do today is reach a delicate balance: at once to say that the framework of industrial relations law which their Government has introduced is working well, and yet at

the same time insist that there is real need for further action.

John Monks, the TUC's General Secretary, says that he doesn't detect great employer enthusiasm for further legislation, and privately, many employers agree: they do not see further legal reform of employee relations as a pressing competitiveness issue. Nevertheless, Mr Lang will set out today a range of measures, including extending from seven to 14 days the notice required of industrial action after a ballot, pushing up the ballot threshold from a majority of those voting to a majority of those entitled to vote, and rebalancing on strikes every three months after the start of industrial action.

The consultative paper will make it clear that the Government has considered a further range of options, including compulsory arbitration in disputes, a legal requirement to co-operate with Acas, the conciliation service, new powers to ban specific strikes or strikes in certain sectors of the economy. But these have all been rejected.

Instead, the Government will propose removing legal immunity from strikes which have "disproportionate or excessive effects", citing as examples strikes which pose risks to life, health or safety; strikes which threaten national security or serious damage to property or to the economy; and strikes which will mean "significant disruption of everyday life or activities in the whole or part of the country." The Government's intention is to put the decision of what constitutes an essential service to the judgment of the courts.

The courts should take account, according to the Government, of the

intensity, frequency and duration of the industrial action after a case had been brought before them, either by an employer or by anyone affected, whether the action concerned affected a monopoly or a service in which, for the timescale of the strike, there was no adequate alternative or substitute.

The consultative paper says: "These legal criteria would allow a judgment to be made as to whether in a particular instance industrial action had, or was likely to have, unacceptable effects. It would be clear in most circumstances whether or not the effects of industrial action were likely to be disproportionate or excessive." Employment lawyers are sceptical about the value, or even the possibility of applying, this notion of proportionality, while unions and business are fearful that its vagueness may simply lead to fat fees for lawyers, with little practical effect.

In one sense, today's move will be shadow boxing — partly because the strikes which inspired it are over, but mainly because the law that the consultative paper will preface will not surface, at least this side of an election. That doesn't make it irrelevant: in 1992, the Government mounted a similar pre-election exercise, including requirements for all pre-strike ballots to be postal. It subsequently became law.

If the Conservatives win the general election, today's consultative paper will signal further union reforms. If they do not, Labour has its own proposals for new employment law. Either way, unions, strikes and employee relations are firmly back on the business and political agenda — and today's government move will fire the starting gun for them as an issue in the election.

Stick with the
hair shirt, Ken

Conservatives must be hoping, sneakily, that Kenneth Clarke packs away his hair shirt and slips on his glad rags next Tuesday, given yesterday's stunning public borrowing figures. With an election looming, and Labour apparently drawing away again in the polls, news of bumper tax receipts in October must tempt some to think that the Budget can be a generous, potentially vote-winning affair after all.

All such notions should be stamped on resolutely. News of a £4.4 billion repayment of borrowing last month, more than twice what the City had been expecting, is a strong argument against cutting taxes for it is yet further evidence of the economy's strength. Coupled with last week's surge in annual inflation rates and another very large fall in unemployment, the last thing this economy needs is a fiscal boost.

The October repayment of borrowing was partly because of strong corporation tax receipts and that, to an extent, reflects healthy profits last year. But there was also a rebound in receipts of VAT and excise duties, benefiting from this year's strengthening consumer demand. Early last month, the consensus forecast was that the public sector borrowing requirement in the full year would total £28 billion, once again overshooting the Treasury's £26.9 billion. Now the Government is expected to meet its projection and perhaps even undershoot it.

This is undoubtedly good news, particularly after last year's worries when tax revenues inexplicably failed to match expectations. But it is still no reason for vaunting. One only needs to look as far back as Nigel Lawson's chancellorship to know the disasters that can follow on tax cuts to win elections when the economy is already growing perfectly well on its own. Mr Clarke is already being told by the Bank of England that he will not hit his inflation target without higher interest rates. Net tax cuts next week would simply make the Bank and the markets even more aggressive.

If Mr Clarke were to be tempted into a net tax giveaway of any size, then he

really will have to think in terms of raising interest rates again — and probably again. With chartered surveyors now talking about panic-buying lifting house prices markedly in some parts of the country, it may be that the housing market is robust enough to take higher mortgage rates. But the psychological impact on voters would not be pretty.

The Chancellor will also be aware of last week's MORI poll in *The Times*, which thoroughly vindicated his view that the electorate would be cynical about tax cuts just before an election, having borne the huge tax rises that the Government promised, during the last election campaign, would never happen.

The poll showed that a majority of the public, including Tory supporters and the better-off, believe that the Chancellor should not cut the basic rate of income tax. He would be better off pleasing the financial markets with a tight package that recouped some of the slippage on the public finances last year, and concentrating on relatively cheap but clever measures designed specifically to steal Labour's thunder.

After all, it should not be forgotten that, even after yesterday's figures, the PSBR is nowhere near as low as the Government had envisaged. In November 1994, the Treasury was projecting a PSBR this year of £13 billion. By last year's Budget, that figure had risen to £22.5 billion. In the Summer Forecast, the estimate was raised again to £26.9 billion. Even if borrowing now underestimates — and it still may not — this would only represent a modest clawing back of ground lost. Moreover, if all was right with the British economic universe, surely the Government should be nearer to its aim of "balance in the medium term" after five uninterrupted years of growth.

In the end, the debate about the contents of next week's Budget package is marginal in terms of economic impact. A 1p cut in the basic rate costs about £1.3 billion. That is about half of the City's forecasting error for yesterday's public borrowing figures.

Philip Bassett on a project for the future

The Post Office looks to Genesis
for its 21st century technology

Britain's Post Office, beset by industrial disputes and a long-running argument about its ownership as well as new communication methods such as e-mail and faxes, will today unveil a project aimed at shifting its markets into the 21st century.

In the unlikely setting of a warehouse in Swindon, Post Office leaders will reveal the Genesis project, which will attempt to bring together available and likely technologies from different suppliers. The Post Office regards the project as the most ambitious it has undertaken.

In many industrial sectors in Britain, the supply chain has been markedly improved — often by an external event, such as the arrival into a long-established industry of an inward investor. Nissan, the Japanese motor manufacturer, for example, says that when it first set up in the UK in the mid-1980s, it used to reject 2,000 parts per million from its first 200 supplying firms. Now, the company says, its rejection rate from its top 50 suppliers is down to 10 parts per million — equal to the best rates in Japan.

While competition can stimulate development and improve quality, some companies recognise, too, that it can hold it back, as supply firms strive to maintain a competitive edge by keeping their own developments secret.

The Post Office will, in the Genesis project, try a collaborative route — one that is collaborative, inclusive, co-operative. In the Wiltshire warehouse, Post



The rural office could be further threatened by changes

Office leaders have drawn together 22 of the world's leading information technology companies. Companies such as Microsoft, IBM, BT, Compaq, AT&T, Hewlett-Packard and Bull are casting aside old, traditional rivalries to work together for the Post Office, to create new models for business information systems.

Post Office leaders believe that by bringing together competing companies, swapping ideas, innovations and technologies, they can push forward change more quickly

than they would be able to do through normal relationships with individual firms. In the face of growing computer-based communications, the Post Office, like postal services worldwide, seems inextricably linked with physical communications — letters, parcels, what the users of systems such as the Internet sneeringly dismiss as "snail mail".

John Roberts, the Post Office's chief executive, says: "We want to make technology the future life blood of the Post Office. Genesis will be the biggest single systems integration of company information and systems any business in Europe has ever undertaken. Nobody in British industry has tackled culture change by bringing so many suppliers together to collaborate on something like this."

The Genesis demonstration, put together for the relatively low cost of £2 million, will try to show what a post office of the future could look like including:

□ Interactive access to many Post Office services through domestic TV sets, telephones, PCs and the Internet — including stamp issues, timed collection and delivery services, including Datapost and registered mail. It could even offer a hybrid form of E-mail, in which letters would be transmitted electronically to Royal Mail, which would then print and envelope them and send them straight to addressees.

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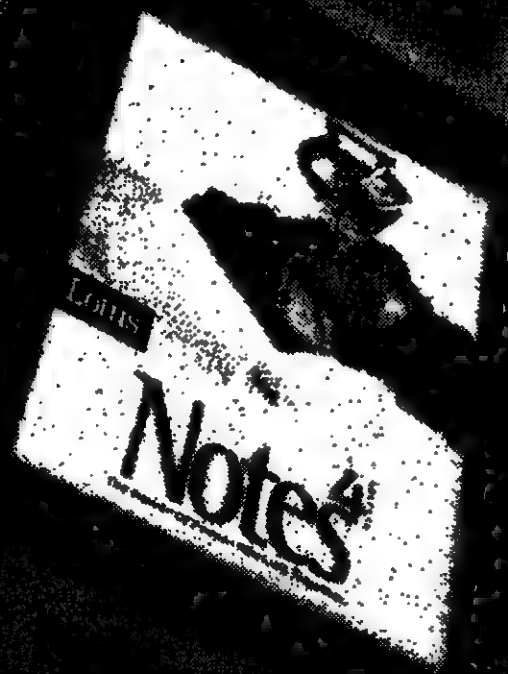
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■ VISUAL ART 1

In the heat of battle: Paul Nash's Second World War paintings go on show in London



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while the V&A offers a magnificent selection of classic American photography

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

... and a collection of exquisite Japanese boxes is also on display in London



■ THEATRE

The life and tragedy of Kenneth Williams are recalled in *Think No Evil of Us*

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on Paul Nash's powerful paintings of air combat; plus classic American photography

At war in the observer's cockpit

Of all the British artists who painted the horror and desolation of the First World War, Paul Nash stands out in his impassioned, eloquent indignation. He was an unlikely candidate for the task. Before 1914, his precocious reputation rested on small, visionary watercolours and drawings of the countryside he loved best. Shying away from machine-age modernity and identifying instead with Blake, Palmer and Rossetti, he seemed destined for a life of dream-fuelled rural seclusion.

First-hand experience of the Western Front changed him irrevocably. After being invalided home as a soldier, he obtained a government commission and returned to Passchendaele as an official war artist. The terrain, destroyed and unrecognisable after a punishing yet militarily fruitless struggle, shocked him into a sudden, decisive maturity. He decided to become "a messenger", whose work would convince the British that war was "unspeakable, godless, hopeless". In paintings as bitterly protesting as the ironically titled *We Are Making a New World*, he condemned the devastation with unforgettable trenchancy.

Several of these earlier canvases are at the Imperial War Museum in the gallery next to *Aerial Creatures*, an illuminating and well-researched survey of Nash's relatively neglected Second World War work. Sir Kenneth Clark, chairman of the committee responsible between 1939 and 1945 for funding a prodigious range of war art, ensured that Nash played a role from the outset. Remembering the great paintings of 1918, he responded enthusiastically to Nash's request for employment.

But both men knew that the outcome would be radically different from the images inspired by Passchendaele. For one thing, the 50-year-old artist was no longer able to survey the conflict at close quarters. Already plagued by the ill-health that would kill him in 1946, he was forced to stay at a remove from the reality of battle. Moreover, his style had undergone startling changes in the intervening period. Veering between the British landscape tradition and an avant-garde fascination with Surrealism, he sometimes seemed uncertain about his central identity.

Nash's appointment as official war artist to the Air Ministry in March 1940 might suggest that his concerns had shifted, quite unexpectedly, from the land to the sky. In one sense they had: convinced that "machines were the real protagonists" in this struggle, he quickly grew convinced that "aeroplane seemed paramount". The Surrealist side of his imagination became fascinated by their resemblance to predatory creatures.

In other ways, though, Nash's appointment revived longstanding preoccupations. They emphasised the underlying continuity in his work, not least an obsession with flight that stretched back as far as boyhood dreams. He had often seen himself floating like a leaf or bird, just above the tree-tops. Springing into the air delighted



Paul Nash's *The Messerschmidt in Windsor Great Park*, the work of a man who, forbidden to fly in the Second World War, still captured the realities of combat

him, especially when he found himself able, by "something like a powerful breast stroke", to propel his body "through the ether". And the earliest exhibit in the show, a 1910 student drawing called *Combat (Angel and Devil)*, is dominated by a winged Pre-Raphaelite swordsman trying to protect himself from a beaked and feathered demon descending from the sky with hawk-like ferocity.

To his intense frustration, Nash never succeeded in getting airborne during the Second World War. Persistent attempts to obtain permission always foundered when doctors pronounced him unfit to fly. So he had to rely on pilots' accounts and newspaper descriptions, as well as taking his own photographs to supplement eyewitness sketching. It is tantalising to wonder what Nash might have painted if his flying fantasies were fulfilled. Seeing the world from an airborne vantage could have pushed him towards a greater degree of abstraction, like his Slade contemporary Edward Wadsworth during the First World War.

The experience of flight may not, however, have benefited his art. Confined to the ground, Nash began visiting Cowley Dump near

Oxford and studied wrecked aircraft. Encountering these battered remnants was enormously fruitful, leading him to produce within months the finest of all his Second World War paintings: *Totes Meer*. Beneath a spectral moon, the gashed wings and shattered bellies of German planes are heaped in a low-lying landscape. The harshly illuminated carcasses cast ominous shadows on the earth. From a purely propagandist point of view, *Totes Meer* could be seen as a patriotic celebration of effective British resistance. But the overwhelming emotion is elegiac. Nash implicitly mourns the death of young German pilots as he surveys these brittle metallic fragments. And the choice of picture title indicates that he linked the broken forms with his earlier paintings of a wave-pierced sea.

Here, more than anywhere, is the link with his experience in the previous war. For Nash started painting seascapes at Dymchurch on the south coast after he had completed his great Western Front canvases of 1918-20. Exhausted by the horrors he had witnessed, and suffering physically from the after-effects of a gas attack, he saw Dymchurch Strand as a postwar wasteland. The water seems frozen in a state of angular paralysis,

possibly reflecting the glacial condition of Nash's own traumatised emotions.

He gave the theme its definitive expression in an even starker painting called *Winter Sea*. Begun in 1925 but only finished 12 years later, this uncompromising canvas

‘He became fascinated by aircraft’s resemblance to predatory creatures’

suggests that he remained haunted by a fear that the world might never recover from the catastrophic blight inflicted by the Great War. In this respect, *Winter Sea* is prophetic of the hostilities renewed only two years after its completion. And its successor, *Totes Meer*, fulfils that prophecy in the most mournful manner imaginable. Although finished in 1941, the painting's death-like finality indicates

that everything, even violence itself, has somehow come to an end in this chill, glinting graveyard.

None of Nash's subsequent pictures conveyed the tragedy of war with the same power. Determined to experiment, he produced a large *Battle of Britain* painting later in the same year. This time, however, he adopts a more distant vantage and revels in the undulating white trails left by the aircraft as they dodge, weave and plummet through the sky. Painted with greater freedom than *Totes Meer*, it nevertheless verges on the decorative. Nash appears to be entranced by semi-abstract pattern-making, and in danger of forgetting the bleak reality of death altogether.

In a more propagandist mood, he was capable of making anti-German collages. A 1942 series called *Follow the Führer* shows a flying shark devouring Luftwaffe bombers, and an army of yelling skulls abandoned in the Soviet snow. On the whole, though, a gentler mood prevails. Nash often seems captivated by the lyrical spectacle of Whitleys taking off at sunrise, Hampdens at sunset, and long-haul planes in the moonlight. The romance of flight triumphs over the fell purpose of their journeys.

Only in a large, culminating canvas called *Battle of Germany*

does he finally acknowledge that the pilot's travels end in devastation on an apocalyptic scale. Dark, noxious smoke spreads upwards from the ground, appearing to solidify in the air and then ooze like a bloodstain above a band of blue identified by Nash himself as "part of a shell-shocked sky".

Because it was more abstract than Nash's previous war pictures, Clark confessed to a feeling of "apologetic bewilderment and incomprehension" when he viewed the newly completed canvas in 1944. But the truth is that *Battle of Germany* is a more vital and adventurous achievement than the dogged, overliteral and clumsy *Defence of Albion* painted two years before.

Conscious that he did not have long to live, Nash attempted in *Battle of Germany* to push his art towards a new synthesis. Topical reportage is fused, here, with visionary insight descending from the dogged, overliteral and clumsy *Defence of Albion* painted two years before.

Conscious that he did not have long to live, Nash attempted in *Battle of Germany* to push his art towards a new synthesis. Topical reportage is fused, here, with visionary insight descending from the dogged, overliteral and clumsy *Defence of Albion* painted two years before.

THE BOUNDARY GALLERY

IT IS several years since the work of June Redfern has been seen in London. As the new show at the Boundary Gallery demonstrates, it is unwise to take one's eyes off her for a moment: she is blissfully unpredictable. For some time now she has been hovering on the edge of abstraction. It is clear that her apparent subjects, when they can be unequivocally disentangled, are little more than pretexts for her joyous romps with paint. The oil paint may be washed on thin, like watercolour, or laid on almost literally with a trowel. And always this range of dazzling colour which shows her as a true heir of the Scottish Colourists. The ostensible subjects this time are women, and sometimes horses, on a beach. Or, in pastel, scenes from rural France. The style is unmistakable, the ripe sensuality of it all irresistible. *Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 1126), Wed-Sat 11am-6pm, until Jan 18 (closed Dec 22-Jan 4).*

ON THE early bird principle, a young Swedish naval lieutenant visiting Japan in 1887 would be well placed to collect the cream of Japanese art objects then available. But the unnamed Swede, ultimately an admiral, who amassed the collection now on view at Eskerazi clearly had taste as well as enthusiasm, and what he acquired on the spot merely whetted his appetite, so that his collection was subsequently augmented from leading European dealers. The tradition has apparently been kept up by the three subsequent generations of his descendants. The result is a dazzling assemblage of 55 inro and 27 boxes dating from the 16th to 19th centuries. An inro is in fact a special form of box subtended as a travelling writing cabinet cum purse, and while some are exquisitely elegant and simple, others are very elaborate indeed. Though one requires specialised knowledge to recognise the symbolism of the motifs, the extraordinary beauty of design and workmanship is accessible to everybody. *Eskerazi, 10 Clifford Street, W1 (0171-493 5464), Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Nov 30.*

THE preoccupation of Victorian artists with fairies presumably has something to do with a retreat from grown-up life and, even more, grown-up sex. But at least the new show at the Mass Gallery, *The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of*, indicates that what is thrust out through the door tends to creep back through the window. The supposed insubstantiality of fairy folk certainly permits an astonishing variety of bare breasts, diaphanous garments and suggestive poses. The imagery is often unconsciously sexual and in some cases, as with Richard Doyle's Rumpelstiltskin picture, consciously so. This may be just a narrow tributary to the great stream of Victorian art, but the veiled charms are sufficiently manifest. *Mass Gallery, 15a Clifford Street, W1 (0171-734 2302), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, until Dec 20.*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Striking camp

BY SUBTITLING his one-man show *My life with Kenneth Williams*, David Benson leads us to expect another war-and-all exposure from a not-making-love. We soon discover that the two men never met, although their paths did cross when Williams read a story the 13-year-old Benson sent to a *Jackanory* competition. The young author was mortified because a) he had hoped for Spike Milligan, and b) since the whole school knew Williams was the arch-priest of camp, he (Benson) was now tarred with the same embarrassing brush.

Only after Williams killed himself did Benson find he wanted to speak with the dead man's voice, and make those extraordinary expressions with eyebrows, nose and mouth. When he is being himself Benson has the look of a young James Cagney, and it is as himself that he speaks in the central section of his show. The substantial length of this comes as a surprise, until we understand that his show is the occasion for exorcising his own demons, and that they are as dark as those which tormented the arch-priest.

The show contains many Williams imitations and uncountable intonations of the sorts of word he would

THEATRE

Think No Evil of Us
King's Head, NI

single out for attention — "unrestrainedly", "otiose" — turning his mouth to lift the word up for inspection and at the same time chew it to death. But instead of reproducing familiar sketches, Benson selects or creates material and delivers it as Williams might have done: a *Hiawatha* parody, Williams ogling a muscular road digger, and Williams longing to be dead.

It is to put his self-disgust into some kind of context that Benson steps back into himself and hopscoches along his own life, landing usually on the squares marked with his mother's name. You can see that Benson wants this to engage with his account of Williams, and it doesn't really do so. But even if the show has not yet found its best and final shape the material is fascinating. Benson himself has a winning charm, and his portrait of the uglier aspects of Williams is an eye-opener.

JEREMY KINGSTON

American snaps that crackle and pop

John Russell Taylor on an exhibition of high-quality photography at the Victoria and Albert Museum

The couple stopped at a Park Avenue traffic light look fairly bland and noncommittal: just another day. But their back-seat passenger thinks otherwise. He rears up, gibbering with fury at whoever has just pulled up behind: the photographer, presumably, but more immediately, us. He is, of course, a pet monkey. So what else is new?

Few photographers have matched Gary Winogrand's skill at catching the bizarre at the heart of everyday New York, and this 1959 image in the current Victoria and Albert show *American Photography 1890-1965* is not even one of his more Surreal. But it does assert itself as quintessentially in the American photographic grain.

Obviously this collection of 185 pictures from the Museum of Modern Art, New York, has been very carefully and rigorously selected. The quality is extraordinarily high — definitely a show about photography as an art — and the principle of selection seems to be fairly even-handed. Without claiming to be comprehensive, the show manages to

avoid many of the most famous, inescapable images and still be decently representative.

The turning point in the show comes just before the First World War, as it did in many arts in many countries. What happens then is the rise of Modernism: the older, painting-based pictorialist tradition is swept aside by the new men and women, Stieglitz and his associates, who were determined to establish photography as an art in its own right. But whereas in Europe similar movements led to a lot of abstraction and Surrealist manipulation of the image, in America the Modernist solution was to look with ever greater intensity and immediacy at the world around.

What Henry James called "the tone of the times" still counted, however. Photography could not be an isolated phenomenon. But if we can see an entire relationship between a photograph such as Wright Morris's *Gum Grain Elevator, Western Kansas* (1939), with its simple, abstract geometry, and the Precisionist painting of the interwar years in America, at least it seems that photography leads, and

the other arts follow. But this also establishes another principle in American photography: that it all arises out of observation rather than invention.

Consequently, if you look for the experimental in American art you tend to find it wearing a documentary disguise. Paul Outerbridge's *Idle Collar* (1922) is a perfect abstraction, the curve cutting across a rigidly checkered background, but it is also an accurate depiction of a collar displayed against a chessboard. Edward Weston's *Hot Coffee, Mojave Desert* (1937) is a model Surrealist image, the giant cup and saucer sitting comfortably in the middle of a sandy waste, but it is also recognisable as a naive advertisement just waiting for someone to see the funny side.

Some of the earlier photography in the show is very evidently calculated. One wonders how long it took Frances Benjamin Johnston to set up *Stairway of Treasurer's Residence, Students at Work* (1899). But probably the famously unsparring "documentary" pictures of Diane Arbus, with their relentless parade of



The montage *Hot Shot East Bound at Lager, WV* (1939), by O. Winston Link

grotesques, took just as much trouble to arrange. Even with a painter like Charles Sheeler behind the camera, the image of a corner of his studio looks studiously unarranged, and frequently when the most formidable technique is brought to bear it is used mainly to convince us that the picture resulting is just a happy snapshot: who would guess at a glance that O. Winston Link's evocation of a drive-in movie, *Hot Shot East Bound at Lager, WV* (1939), is in fact pieced together from eight

or more separate exposures? Maurice Bowra once proposed a North-South division of the world into cultures more interested in drink and cultures more interested in sex. When asked where the United States fitted in, he opined: "Drink masquerading as sex." In much the same way, the proper stance for American photography seems to be art masquerading as accident.

American Photography 1890-1965 is at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8249) until Jan 26

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Day two of our series on choosing the right type of school looks at the threat to grammar schools and the rise in awards for quality

The battle to stay the best

GRAMMAR schools are feeling vulnerable. Despite John Major's hopes of a grammar in every town, the schools' national association fears for the survival of the 161 fully selective schools.

In Labour and Liberal Democrat areas, the National Grammar Schools Association advises members to opt out to help to preserve themselves after the next general election. More than 100 have already done so.

Grammar schools will dominate the top of tomorrow's national league table of exam excellence and took 21 of the 32 places in the school inspectors' inaugural list of outstanding schools. But nowhere does a clash of political ideology impinge more on the shape of Britain's schools than over the selection of children.

A glimpse of the battle ahead can be found in the North West, where Labour-controlled Trafford council and its five selective schools are at loggerheads. The authority's determination to scrap them has encouraged moves towards grant-maintained status.

First to opt out of local authority control was Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. Its sister girls school is waiting for ministerial approval. Urmoston Grammar School is due to receive the result of its parental vote today. Stretford Grammar sent parents their ballot papers last week and Sale Grammar is expected to vote soon.

Bryan Purvis, head of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, said: "The chairman of education and the leader of the council have both said that if a Labour government is elected they will seek to reorganise education on a non-

selective basis. Grant-maintained status means we become our own admissions authority and unless there is primary legislation prohibiting selection we have to be individually reorganised rather than the whole education authority being reorganised in one go."

Altrincham Boys uses an 11-plus test provided for 30 schools in the Grant-maintained Consortium for Admissions by the National Foundation for Education Research. In two-and-a-half hours on a single day, the children take a series of electronically-marked multiple choice tests and write an essay, with the top 30 per cent going to the grammar.

Mr Purvis said a shake-up in Trafford could cost as much as £4 million for new buildings. He added: "We have a totally different view of what we are aiming for. They are aiming for social engineering and I want the best for the individuals I have to look after."

Dave Acton, chairman of Trafford's education committee, said the £4 million figure had been "plucked out of the air" and that a comprehensive system would bring bureaucratic savings and local benefits.

Mr Acton added: "We want to move to a non-selective education system, but we would only do that after full consultation following a change of government. We would want to put forward proposals with the least disruption."

Nationally, Liberal Democrats oppose any further selection and would abolish grant-maintained status, returning all schools to Church or local authority status. It would then be left to the local authority to set admissions policies.



Altrincham Girls' Grammar faces a fight with Trafford council to maintain its status

The national Labour leadership has moved to calm fears raised by tension in Trafford and elsewhere. It plans to make all secondaries either community, aided or foundation schools. The local education authority will set admission rules for community schools. Both the aided (Church schools) and foundation (ex-grant-maintained schools) will have to reach agreement with the local authority on admissions policy, except in the case of grammar schools.

A Labour spokesman said: "We have made separate provision for the 161 historic grammar schools. If parents wish to change the admissions system they will be able to have a ballot."

The Labour spokesman added: "The wording will be reasonable

and fair. The reason we have not gone into long definitions is because the situation varies in different parts of the country." Most grammar schools find themselves in Labour or Liberal Democrat council areas. Essex, run by Labour with the Lib Dems, has withdrawn its subsidy from children using buses to travel to grammar schools. Lincolnshire County Council refused to run the 11-plus testing system and the grammar schools administer it themselves.

Buckinghamshire, the last remaining Conservative shire county, has 13 grammars. There are 40 in Kent, 15 in Lincolnshire, eight in Essex, seven in Gloucestershire, six in Berkshire and Birmingham, five in Warwickshire and four in Lancashire.

Margaret Dewar, chairman of the National Grammar Schools Association, said: "They say they will give parents the vote which will see grammar schools disappear because seven out of ten parents in those areas will be secondary modern parents. It is categorically clear their intention is to destroy grammar schools."

She believes the selection proposals in the White Paper are a fudge on Mr Major's vision.

Mrs Dewar added: "I would say grant-maintained status is a good way forward and 30 will go before the election. There will be a hell of a fight to save grammar schools, none of us have any intention of going quietly."

DAVID CHARTER

Awards that tell their own story

The league tables are not the only clues to a good school. The symbols and logos displayed near its entrance or on its stationery can tell their own story.

There is a range of awards that should reassure a prospective parent that the school is not heading for the rocks. A Charter Mark, the Investors in People (IIP) standard or a licence from the British Standards Institution (BSI) means that the school recognised by one of these bodies has voluntarily put itself through a complex assessment and improvement process designed to enhance the service it provides. Some head teachers even regard the process as a rehearsal for inspection by the Office for Standards in Education.

The Charter Mark is "the people's mark of approval" and was launched by the Government in 1991 to improve service quality in the public sector. In 1995, 224 Charter Marks were awarded, of which 18 went to schools. One of them is Thomas Telford, a City Technology College (CTC) in Telford, Shropshire. Michael Douch, deputy head, said: "We felt we should aim for some form of external recognition. We chose the Charter Mark for two reasons. First, it's a prestigious national award. Second, we wanted something which acknowledges the relationship between an organisation and its customers, in our case the students we serve."

Charter Marks are hard to get. It took Thomas Telford three attempts. Only then could the school demonstrate its strength in all nine of the areas that Charter Mark focuses on: service standards and performance, information and openness, courtesy and helpfulness, putting things right, value for money, user satisfaction, measurable or demonstrable improvements in service and

planned enhancements to services.

Brooke Weston CTC, Corby, Northamptonshire, chose to apply for ISO 9002, a BSI licence. More than 60 per cent of British companies are registered with BSI but only a few schools. "We were looking for a way of further improving the way in which we handled our 'clients' and saw working towards accreditation by BSI as a way of doing this," said Gareth Newman, principal. Among other changes Brooke Weston enhanced the way it communicated with parents, with reports every eight weeks, flexible access to staff and even to lessons and many more meetings than is statutorily required.

Investors in People (IIP) is the most widespread form of quality recognition among schools: 323 schools hold the standard. The emphasis is on staff development in the widest sense. In the case of Leigh CTC, Darford, Kent, satisfying the IIP standard meant changing its appraisal and staff development procedures. All staff, ancillary and teaching, are now included on an equal basis. There were also other problems, such as poor communication between and among staff on a split site, that had to be resolved before the college was recognised as an Investor in People in March 1994.

What these logos indicate is that this is a school whose staff have sought a way of leveraging up the standard of their work. They did not just let things slide and hope for the best. They took positive action themselves and the logo is a mark of what they achieved.

That, surely, is a fine recommendation for any school.

The authors' report Recognising Quality is published at £7.50 by, and available from, TC Trust 9, Whitehall, London SW1A 2DD. Tel 071-830 9339

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When more means less

Prisoners will spend less time behind bars under the new crime Bill, says David Thomas

The controversial Crime (Sentences) Bill is now before MPs. It manifests the Government's intention to get tough on crime. But close analysis shows that in reality it does the opposite. Virtually all offenders sentenced to custody under the Bill will spend less time in prison than they would under the existing law.

This is the effect of Clause 21, which is central to the introduction of "honest sentencing". The clause provides that a court must "secure that the term imposed corresponds to the appropriate proportion of the term which the court would have imposed before the Bill became law. The "appropriate proportion" is the period the offender would have actually spent in prison under the sentence. In the case of those sentenced to less than four years — 90 per cent of those sent to prison — that amounts to half of the sentence.

So in future, a judge will have to say: "Before the Crime (Sentences) Act became law, I would have sentenced you to three years; it follows that I must now sentence you to 18 months."

The offender benefits from this change in two ways. First, or she will be entitled under Clause 9 of the Bill to earn remission — "early release days" — at the rate of six days for each month of the sentence. Those sentenced to 18 months will earn up to 3½ months' remission and can hope to be released after 14½ months.

Secondly, under existing law a prisoner's sentence is not finished on release. For the remainder of the sentence he or she is "at risk": if an offence is committed before the end of the sentence as pronounced by the court, a prisoner can be returned to prison to serve the balance of the sentence, in addition to any new sentence imposed for the later offence.

Under the Bill, this liability disappears. The offender will be released subject to a "release supervision order" (provided the sentence is at least 12 months) but the supervision order will last for 15 per cent of the sentence or three months, whichever is the greater. A man or woman sentenced to 18 months under the Bill will be



The new get-tough crime Bill could release convicts like Ronnie Barker in Porridge sooner

under a release supervision order for only three months from the date of release. A prisoner who offends during that period can be ordered to serve a period equivalent to the period of supervision.

All short-term prisoners (those sentenced to less than four years under the present law) will be better off under the Bill, therefore. A man or woman sentenced to 12 months today will serve six months "at risk" after release. Under the Bill, the sentence will be six months; he or she will be able to earn up to 36 early-release days and may expect to be released after serving four months and 24 days and not qualify for a

release supervision order as the sentence is less than 12 months and, therefore, have no "at risk" period at all.

A prisoner who would today be sentenced to two years does almost as well. Under present law, he or she will serve 12 months and be at risk for 12 months and on reoffending may be ordered to serve whatever remained of the original sentence on the day of the later offence, which could be anything up to 12 months.

But under the new proposals, the sentence will be 12 months, and the prisoner can hope to earn up to 72 early-release days — equivalent to nearly 2½ months' remission. If earned, he or she will be out of prison after 9½ months, and

the release supervision order will last for three months. He or she will be liable to be returned to prison only through reoffending within that period, and the maximum period of return will be three months.

So, will the leniency of the new system of "honest sentencing" be balanced by the greater severity of the mandatory sentences? It seems unlikely. The Bill will provide a mandatory sentence of seven years for offenders convicted on a third occasion of dealing in class A drugs; but such offenders are extremely rare.

The Home Office cannot provide any statistics of their existence: a review of decisions of the Court of Appeal has

failed to trace a single example; and out of a group of more than 100 barristers practising daily in the criminal courts, only one could remember acting for a defendant who would have qualified for the mandatory sentence.

The mandatory three-year sentence for persistent burglars will not have an impact for several years. To qualify, a burglar will have to be convicted on three separate occasions of burglaries being committed after the Act comes into force.

For example, a burglar aged 30, who already has ten convictions for burglary representing perhaps as many as 100 separate offences, will find that his slate has been wiped clean under the Bill.

To qualify for a mandatory sentence, he or she will have to commit a series of offences, be convicted and sentenced for those, and repeat the process twice. This is likely to take at least five years, if not more.

That leaves the Bill's automatic life sentence for those convicted a second time of a "serious offence". The Government claims that in 1994, 207 offenders convicted of a second serious offence did not receive life sentences.

No details of these cases have been published, but it is certain that none of them worried the Attorney-General enough to make him refer the case to the Court of Appeal and ask that court to impose a life sentence.

Only two of the cases referred by the Attorney-General in the relevant period involve offenders who would qualify for an automatic life sentence, and in neither did he ask the Court of Appeal to pass a life sentence.

It seems likely that the automatic life sentence will prove as much of a scarecrow as the rest of the Bill. As most offenders who will be caught by the automatic life sentence will not be judged to be a danger to the public — they have not been so judged by courts up to now, and the Attorney-General has not disagreed with the courts' assessments — most will be released from prison at about the same time as they would have been freed under the present law.

Dr David Thomas, QC, is editor of Current Sentencing Practice

No need to act on witness payments

The Lord Chancellor's Department has issued a consultation paper inviting comments (by December 31) on the Government's provisional view that "legislation is needed to deal with the threat which payments to witnesses pose to the proper administration of justice".

The paper explains that if witnesses are paid (or offered payments) by newspapers for their stories, they may omit something from their evidence in court in order to enhance the value of their story for the front page, or they may exaggerate their court testimony to improve the headlines. Even if the evidence of the witness is untainted by the fact of payment, juries may doubt the veracity of testimony given in such circumstances, thus impeding the administration of justice.

These are powerful arguments. They have led the Government to suggest that the Contempt of Court Act 1981 should be amended to proscribe payments to witnesses, or that a specific criminal offence should be created.

Whichever option is adopted, the Government suggests that the prohibitions would apply once criminal proceedings were imminent or pending, and if there were a risk of prejudice to those proceedings. The law would prohibit any payment of money, and "any gift or consideration".

The consultation paper addresses an old problem. After the trial of Ian Brady and Myra Hindley in 1966, the Attorney-General told the House of Commons that he had decided not to bring proceedings against a newspaper which was alleged to have paid a prosecution witness a retainer and offered him a larger sum contingent on a guilty verdict. The Attorney-General said the Government would "examine these problems with a view to making such changes in the law as may prove necessary". Nothing was done.

In 1974, the Phillimore Committee on Contempt of Court suggested that the prevalence of payments to witnesses should be investigated, with a view to considering whether legislation was needed. No action was taken. During the trial of Jeremy Thorpe and others in 1979, the evidence of a prosecution witness, Peter Bessell, was discredited in the eyes of the jury because *The Sunday Telegraph* had agreed to pay him an additional fee of £25,000 for his story if Mr Thorpe were to be convicted.

No action was taken, except for the Attorney-General prosecuting (unsuccessfully) the *New Statesman* for revealing what the members of the jury had thought about Mr Bessell and other witnesses. Earlier this year, when dismissing the appeal by Rosemary

West against her conviction for murder, Lord Chief Justice Taylor said that the issue of media payments to witnesses should be reviewed because "in some circumstances it could put justice at risk".

There are three reasons why the concern about payments to witnesses in 1996 should receive the same response as it received in 1966, 1974 and 1979. First, there is no evidence that payments to witnesses pose any greater threat to the administration of justice than they have done in the past. This is partly because the code applied by the Press Complaints Commission prohibits such payments other than in exceptional circumstances.

Secondly, the Phillimore report correctly pointed out that there would be "difficulties in framing legislation". As the report explained: "Clearly it would be going too far to prohibit all offers to witnesses, especially those which were not contingent upon the outcome of the case. Much would depend on the size and circumstances of the offer." Parliament would not wish to impede the performance of the journalist's function.

Suppose, while the Matrix Churchill criminal trial was pending in 1992, a journalist had offered to buy lunch for Alan Clark, MP, in order to obtain background information for publication once the trial had ended?

Thirdly, a newspaper could well be acting in contempt of court under existing law if (while a criminal trial is pending) it agrees to pay a substantial fee to a witness for an exclusive story, especially if the amount of the fee depends on whether the defendant is convicted. Section 6(c) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 prohibits "conduct intended to impede or prejudice the administration of justice".

If it is, or should have been, obvious from the circumstances that the fee arrangement would impede or prejudice the administration of justice (as in the Peter Bessell example), the newspaper (if prosecuted by the Attorney-General) would probably be convicted and punished, since "intention" is distinct from motive and can be proved by the strong probability of the mischief occurring.

The Lord Chancellor's Department should abandon the plan for new legislation unless and until it is clearly established that there is a substantial problem which existing law cannot remedy. The reality is that over the past 30 years some newspapers have misbehaved in relation to sensational cases, and the Attorney-General of the day has not been willing to test the scope of the law.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

Forced out to lunch

FORGET the 48-hour maximum working week. The real impact of last week's European Court of Justice ruling, according to Eversheds, will be on the working lunch.

Employers may be forced to kick workaholic staff who never leave their desks out of the factory or office and make them take a break.

Martin Hopkins, an employment law expert at Eversheds, says that in the short term the 48-hour limit will not really affect the working practices of many UK employers.

But bosses will have to pay heed to "rigid rules regarding rest breaks, night shifts and the guaranteed three weeks' annual leave, rising to four in 1999. Considering the working habits prevalent nowadays, the new directive poses the interesting scenario of bosses forcing employees to take a rest or paid holiday."

No mark up

NO WONDER high street solicitors have been so badly hit by plummeting fees. A conveyancing work survey on 30 Liverpool law firms by the Liverpool Law Society shows that the majority of conveyancing work is still being

INNS AND OUTS

carried out by partners. Fees of as little as £58 an hour are being charged for handling that least-profitable work — a sale with a mortgage.

David Swaffield, the society's non-contentious business committee chairman, says in its magazine *Bulletin*: "The results provide stark evidence that many of our members are receiving a very low level of remuneration for work which, to our clients, is of fundamental importance."

Mr Swaffield, who has called for a special meeting on the issue, adds: "The results of the survey also lay to rest the commonly held perception that conveyancing is usually

carried out by unqualified clerks."

PEOPLE are keenly waiting to see what the Law Commission will say about corruption in public life. But the commission is emphasising — contrary to Gary Slapper's article last week in *The Times* — that it has not yet drawn up proposals, and, specifically, not yet decided whether to make proposals about MPs. A report is expected in the new year.

Getting together PROSECUTION barristers are being urged by the charity

The Times Law Awards 1996



£3,000, the second £2,000 and the third £1,000. Three runners-up will receive £250.

The essays will be judged by a panel led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and the winning entry will be published in *The Times*. Further details available from: 0171-583 2000. Closing date: December 6.

Victim Support to seek to introduce themselves to rap victims before trials begin to help them to feel more at ease.

The call comes after a detailed debriefing of 12 rape victims by the group, as part of a research project to determine how they are treated by the criminal justice system. Seven of them said the CPS, and in particular prosecution barristers, were too distant.

The report says: "This was felt all the more keenly because the defendants appeared to have such a close relationship with the defence barrister. This fact, combined with a desire for information and guidance on legal issues, exacerbated many of the women's feelings of anxiety and betrayal."

Into the future

THE House of Lords finally discarded its quill-pen image last week when it entered the cyber age by putting its judgments on the Internet. The Bar Council is gearing itself up for a similar launch.

It has established a working party to assess the best way of registering a domain on the Internet. The proposed Bar directory will display information about the Bar Council, the circuit, chambers and barristers. Only a handful of chambers have set up Web sites.

SCRIVENOR

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

HOW TO TRANSLATE A LEGAL OPINION:

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I WISH I UNDERSTOOD THIS BEFORE I GOT HERE.

THERE'S NO UK AUTHORITY WE CAN RELY ON.

RECOVERY OF DAMAGES IS LIKELY TO BE SUBSTANTIAL.

THE LEGAL COSTS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY.

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ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD RISK THEIR OWN MONEY ON THIS.

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PROPERTY

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LEADING PROPERTY FIRM

Widely regarded as one of the clear market leaders in the property sector, this medium sized City firm now seeks lawyers at the 1-3 year level to join its busy practices to advise on the full range of mainstream property matters. You should have relevant experience from a strong property department within a recognised City or provincial practice. (Ref:8273)

CORPORATE

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CORPORATE

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Insurance company seeks contracts manager to draft and negotiate commercial contracts which will include distribution, licensing, hardware and software agreements. Excellent opportunity with a managerial role. Ref: T33199

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Matthew Rea looks at civil justice in France and England while Adam Sage explains why Europe has trouble in stamping out sleaze

England is a model of reform

EUROSCEPTICS are very much in the ascendant in politics, but in the courts reformers are embracing the Continent with relish. Lord Woolf's plans to change the landscape of civil justice in England and Wales seem to borrow much from the French *Nouveau Code de Procédure Civile*. His measures to reduce the delay and cost of litigation, his proposals for single court-appointed experts, for an identical procedural code in all courts, and for case management by the judges, appear to be aimed at bringing our Anglo-Saxon system more into line with our continental cousins.

But it might surprise Lord Woolf to learn that the French are also looking at changing their system. Last month solicitors who have the monopoly on rights of audience in the French Courts of Appeal met in Colmar, near Strasbourg, to discuss civil justice in England, particularly the aspects of it which encourage so many settlements.

The biggest single factor in

anybody's mind when they embark on litigation in England is costs, and it is costs that will force them to consider every possibility for settlement. Of course, there are other factors. For instance, there is our "cards on the table" procedure, encouraging openness between the parties so that they each know at an early stage what case they have to meet. They can then make a realistic assessment of their chances of success or failure. But it is the cost of litigation which, above all, forces parties to settle their differences. If you have a £25,000 claim and it costs you £25,000 in legal fees to take it to a full trial (by no means unusual)

and it costs your opposite party the same amount to defend it, the fact that if you lose you will have lost not only the amount claimed but also a further £50,000 in costs for both sides, persuades you to avoid the risks of going to trial and instead accept a reduced settlement beforehand.

The French system is much cheaper. Costs of £10,000 for taking a dispute all the way to trial would be exceptional. There is also a limited requirement for the loser to pay the winning party's costs. This means that it is very much more affordable in France to have your dispute determined by the State, and perhaps explains the strong reluctance to reach a compromise. In England, where costs are such an important factor in encouraging settlement, it is essential that the parties, rich or poor, individuals or multinational corporations, can litigate on an equal footing and can have equal bargaining power to negotiate a compromise. Therefore, legal aid, conditional fees, legal-expenses insurance, and encouragement to litigate without lawyers are all important factors in trying to equalise bargaining power.



There are arguments that the English system has not gone far enough with measures designed to equalise the parties' bargaining power, particularly for middle-income families fighting insurance companies. Surely that is the area which any proposals for civil justice reform should be concentrated on. We might therefore have some lessons to learn from the French. Making the system quicker and cheaper might only result in fewer settlements, a rougher form of justice and overburdened courts too costly for the taxpayer.

● The author is a commercial litigation partner with Dawson & Co.

THE FRENCH IN ENGLAND

THE IDEA that the French and the English legal systems have much to learn from each other in the area of civil procedure lies behind a joint meeting of the Franco-British Lawyers Society and the Bar European Group which is being held at Lincoln's Inn tonight. Ian Hunter, QC, writes.

The speaker is Guy Danet, a former President of the Paris Bar and a towering figure in the legal profession in France. He is to speak on "The Advocacy Revolution: are we going French?" What will emerge from his speech is the extent to which reforms in both countries in civil procedure are leading to a convergence of approach.

● Meeting 5pm, Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn. All are welcome. A reception and dinner will be held afterwards. Further details from Helen Maitha on 0171-813 8000.

The magnificent seven's dream

They are respected, emulated and feared. They enjoy the sort of regard that would make British lawyers wonder if they share the same profession. But the seven European magistrates who met in Geneva recently to launch a book on their fight against corruption are unhappy and frustrated.

Hindered by archaic national laws that cannot keep pace with international finance, they are unable to check the sleaze which is engulfing Europe, they say. Tax havens, computers and lack of political willpower make it difficult, if not impossible, to track down and prosecute the corrupt as they move their funds around the globe, the magistrates argue.

The seven are Bernard Bertossa, Attorney-General in Geneva, Edmondo Bruti Liberati, a member of Italy's Higher Magistrature Council, Gherardo Colombo, a prosecutor in Milan, Benoit Dejeu, a prosecutor in Brussels, Baltasar Garçon Real, an investigating magistrate working in Madrid, Carlos Jimenez Villarejo, a prosecutor, also in Madrid, and Renaud Van Ruymbeke, a French investigating judge based in Rennes.

Their roles vary from country to country but they are all part of the investigative judiciary that oversees criminal inquiries in continental Europe, and they all specialise in fraud cases.

Without exception, they are household names in their countries, enjoying the sort of public esteem first heaped upon the Milanese judges who began their anti-corruption drive in Italy five years ago.

But if the seven themselves appear to have few doubts about their abilities, they are far from confident about their efficiency. In a book of interviews with the French journalist Denis Robert, all make the same point — that national boundaries undermine the fight against corruption in an age of new technology.

M Van Ruymbeke explains that in a typical French corruption case, a company seeking, for instance, to build a new school will offer an under-the-table commission to the politician responsible for deciding who should be given the contract. The commission will come from the firm's

slush fund, held in a Swiss bank account in the name of a fictitious Panamanian company, and the politician will receive the money into a similarly anonymous account.

But if M Van Ruymbeke wants details of the account holders, the suspects will make a series of appeals claiming that the Swiss legal authorities should not co-operate with their French counterparts because of differences in legislation or procedural errors.

Given the complexity of Swiss banking laws and lack of international co-operation, it can take "two to three years" to get an answer, M Van Ruymbeke says.

"Meanwhile, the people who launder drug or corruption money have taxes and computers and shift their money from tax haven to tax haven in less than 24 hours," he says.

Mr Bertossa accepts that his country often slows down international sleaze investigations, but says that the same accusation can be made against England. "The English drive us mad," he says. "They are incapable of blocking an account and they don't collaborate for reasons inherent in their legal system, which is even more archaic than ours."

In a statement issued to coincide with the publication of their book, the magistrates argue that only the creation of a "European judicial space" will enable them to stamp out corruption.

They want to be able to communicate directly, "without interference from the executive or recourse to diplomatic channels", in other words, they want the right to ignore European boundaries and thus cut out the sort of procedural wrangles that can add years to an inquiry.

Their appeal is unlikely to be heard, at least in the short term. Even countries not known for their Euroscepticism, such as France, have little stomach for what would be a highly sensitive political move. But in the long term, the magistrates believe public opinion will follow their lead. "If you hamper co-operation between judges in corruption cases, you hamper it for drug trafficking, the Mafia and all forms of organised financial crime," M Van Ruymbeke says.

'Computers and tax havens make it hard to track down corruption'

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Garfield Robbins has recently established a specialist division to handle the recruitment of lawyers into commerce and industry. This is in response to a significant increase in the number of instructions from clients within industry, in addition to UK and international banks. Our clients are varied and include the leading European, US and Asian investment banks and a substantial number of FTSE 100 companies, as well as newer ventures in the multinationals, biotechnology, construction, retail, transport and telecommunications industries. These opportunities exist in London, throughout the UK and overseas.

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PROJECT FINANCE
1 to 5 years qualified £60,000

The International Projects Department of a prestigious merchant bank is seeking an additional member for their project finance team. Work will include providing advice to governments, project sponsors and contractors in all aspects of project finance and related fields. Career prospects are excellent for the right individual. Requirements include experience in either project finance, international banking or capital industry, combined with excellent interpersonal skills. Ref: T10185E.

SHORT SPL TERM
SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

CORPORATE
2-4 year qualified solicitor sought by this international firm, to be based in their London office. Contract is for 3-6 months and candidates should have a strong corporate background with experience gained in a City firm environment. Ref: 31949

IT/ITP
Solicitor/barrister, with a minimum of 3 years' exp, is sought by a regional office of this national firm. Contract is for 3-6 months. Candidates should have up-to-date experience in both IP and IT, ideally both contentious and non-contentious. Ref: 32578

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE
Leading insurance group seeks a solicitor/barrister with specialist professional negligence experience, ideally in relation to solicitors and valuers. Candidates should have 4-7 years' post-qualification experience. Position is to cover for a maternity leave to start immediately. Ref: 32216

BANKING
Non-contentious banking lawyer sought by this City firm for a 3 month contract. Candidates should have a minimum of 3 years' exp and will be working alongside a corporate partner on transactional issues. Immediate start. Ref: 31977

NON FEE-EARNING/CORPORATE
City based leading UK law firm seeks 3-10 year qualified solicitor/barrister for 6 month contract. Ideally looking for experience of company/commercial matters as well as precedent drafting, and marketing. Ref: 33557

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL
2-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to join major US leisure group for 6 month contract. Work will be broad ranging, including commercial contracts, marketing, litigation, and competition law. Candidates must have good interpersonal skills, be a team player and PC literate. Ref: 33766

COMMERCIAL
3-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed for 1 year contract with international company in their London office. Candidates must have heavyweight in-house experience and be able to assist on a broad range of commercial matters. Ref: 33502

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
Leading City firm require 1-2 year qualified solicitor to join busy litigation department. Prerequisites include excellent academics, City firm background and broad-ranging "hands on" experience. Start as soon as possible for 1 year contract. Ref: 32733

SECURITIES
Well-established finance house seeks an experienced banking lawyer, with securities experience, to cover for a 6-9 month maternity leave, to start in December. Financial services and/or investment banking experience would be useful. Ref: 32577

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Major international law firm require 3-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister to assist with heavy workload for 3-6 months. Contract to start as soon as possible. Ref: 30776

For further information please call Emma Hopkins or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

SPL is a QD Company

74 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9ET **CHAMBERS** TEL: 0171- 606 9371 FAX: 0171- 600 1793

Basic Facts
Some candidates prepare themselves for interviews with a thoroughness that others would have reserved for their final examinations. They imagine serious shortcomings in their knowledge of the law and worry that their experience is inadequate. In their anxiety, they can overlook the need to know a few basic facts.

We heard a sorry story recently of a candidate who was asked by the interviewer about her salary. She sat there, mouth open, her face reddening, desperately trying to remember the figure. Setting her handbag, she rummaged through it looking for her latest pay slip. A good interview was ruined. There are other examples. In-house lawyers sometimes fail to remember their company's name. Solicitors in practice can forget, even approximately, how much they are billing.

Why should knowledge of such mundane facts be so important? Partly because they are the kind of facts interviewers expect you to know. Partly because lack of such knowledge reveals an unwillingness that has become unacceptable in commercial practices.

There is not much that candidates can do before an interview to improve their knowledge of the law, but they can ensure that they know the essential commercial and financial features of their organisation, its strategy, its principal problems and its aims. What is confidential cannot be revealed, of course, but just knowing this information will enable candidates to handle the interview more confidently.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

Intellectual Property: West London
Opportunity for junior lawyer to join int'l consumer goods co. Role will primarily involve maintenance of trademarks. General familiarity with IP req'd although some employment & gen comm exp would be useful.

Local Government: Central London
Sole with c. 2 yrs' exp to join legal dept of local authority. You will deal with debt recovery and carry out housing policies which will involve housing related litigation.

Professional Negligence: City
Opportunity for Solicitor with 4-5 yrs' exp to join legal office of major insurance company on a short term contract. Previous exp of contentious valuation work essential. Prior exp working for mortgage lenders desirable.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SOUTH: Helen Mills, Aileen Shepherd
LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson NORTH: Sukh Bhatta MIDLANDS: Nirmisha Gosrani

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Banking Litigation: City
Leading City banking firm seeks lit assistant with some banking lit exp. The position would ideally suit a 1-2 yr qual sol but exceptional NQs may also be considered.

Company/Commercial: City
Medium-sized practice (50-60 partners) seeks 2-5 year qual sol for broad, mainly private co caseload. Working hours shorter than some of firm's larger competitors.

Litigation Partner: West End
High profile med-sized firm with institutional & comm'l client base seeks bright and outgoing senior litigator - prof with established client following - to join as partner.

NQ Tax and Pensions: City
Leading City practice seeks 0-1 year qualified sol for its well-known corporate tax and pensions depts. Firm offers training and work of highest quality.

Contracts Manager: South East
Opportunity for lawyer with 2-5 years commercial experience to join international services co. Work will consist of drafting & reviewing a range of commercial contracts. Must have sound business acumen.

Intellectual Property: Central London
Excellent opportunity for Solicitor or Barrister with 1-5 years' experience which must include IP/IT to join high profile int'l organisation. Attractive salary.

Legal Counsel: South East
Excellent opportunity for Solicitor or Barrister with at least 5 yrs' commercial exp to join leading computer company, be responsible for its UK operations and be part of the management team. Exp of IP would be useful.

Construction Litigation: City
Prestigious City firm with high profile int'l client base seeks outstanding construction lawyer with c. 2 yrs' exp to handle challenging mix of cont and non-cont work.

Commercial Property: Holborn
Thriving med-sized firm with substantial property dept seeks sol at both 1-3 yr qual level and senior ass level. High quality sales, acquisitions and development work.

IT or soft IP: Berkshire
Sole, 2-4 yrs' exp, with IT & IP exp sought by this progressive, impressive firm. Superb opportunity to shine.

Commercial Property Partner: Berks
Prestigious firm needs partner for UK and overseas clients. Following useful, marketing skills essential.

Pensions: Birmingham
Sole required at any level (including NQ) for highly successful pensions team at this pre-eminent firm.

Employment: Leeds
One of the top employment firms in the country now has a magnificent opportunity for a 3-6 yr qualified solicitor.

LONDON ≈ CONTINENTAL

London & Continental Railways Limited (LCR) is the consortium chosen by the Government to design, build, finance and operate the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), to be built between St Pancras Station in London and the Channel Tunnel, and to run the UK arm of Eurostar. The Eurostar service has fast become a household name offering high speed passenger rail travel between London, Paris and Brussels. Union Railways Limited has acted as promoter of the CTRL and will continue to play a key role during the construction phase. It will be responsible for entering into all of the required building contracts as LCR's agent. LCR is preparing for a major debt and equity capital raising by 1998 to build the CTRL. It is currently building on increased passenger numbers and revenues in the Eurostar business and is planning the construction phase of the CTRL. With the Eurostar legal team now well established, there are two exciting new opportunities for lawyers to join this substantial organisation as part of its group in-house legal function.



Commercial Lawyer NQ - 6 months' ppe

Eurostar (UK) wishes to appoint a junior lawyer with up to six months' commercial experience. The role will include advising on a broad range of commercial agreements including distribution, licensing, agency, employment and IT/IP. There will also be the opportunity to advise on and manage litigation. A sound academic background is essential and applications are welcome from both commercial litigators and non-contentious lawyers. The ability to speak at least one other European language is desirable and there will be genuine opportunities to use these skills and to travel.



Construction Lawyer 3-5 years' ppe

Union Railways wishes to appoint an experienced construction lawyer with between 3 and 5 years' mainstream construction experience gained either in-house or in private practice. The role will require a sound knowledge of construction law and practice and will include advising on a broad range of high value construction contracts, including both civil engineering and building contracts and their supporting bonds and warranties.

Both positions offer exceptional opportunities to join a young group of companies at an early stage in their development. Excellent training facilities are available and highly competitive salary packages will be offered to the successful candidates.

For further information in complete confidence please contact our advising consultants, Lisa Hicks and Andrew Caulfield, at Zarak Macrae Brenner on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PY. E-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.



CORPORATE FINANCE PARTNERS - A RARE OPPORTUNITY

Existing partners and senior assistants - It's your ability we seek . . . not your clients

- First class international corporate client base
 - 53 of the FTSE 100
 - 10 of the top 20 US Fortune 500
- Advisers in 3 of the 5 largest M&A deals last year
- Established reputation with leading investment and other banks
- Respected by competitors
- A balanced working environment

One of the premier City firms, with a leading international corporate finance practice, our Client advised in three of the five largest M&A transactions in the City last year. A recognised member of the select group of corporate finance practices, it wishes to capitalise on its momentum built with a very strong client and referral base.

This increasing success is built on valued basics:

- a collegiate environment, designed to encourage personal professional development;
- a lack of forced, over-narrow specialisation;
- one of the strongest ranges of specialist support groups in the City

. . . add the firm's international client base of key investment banks and blue chip corporates, its international office network and established reputation as a leading corporate practice and you have immediate access to the highest quality corporate finance work available.

The firm needs more high-calibre partners to handle an ever-increasing volume of top quality work. You will be a partner or senior assistant in private practice or a senior corporate lawyer in a bank or major corporate with top-rated technical and commercial skills. A following is not necessary; but an established track record in corporate finance is. As evidence of the significance the firm places on this recruitment initiative, immediate partnership will be offered to the right candidate. Our Client firm has a proven record of successfully integrating laterally-hired partners.

Here is a rare opportunity to develop your skills in an environment which both stimulates and rewards.

For further information, please contact in complete confidence Gareth Quarry or Christopher Sweeney on 0171-405 6062 (0171-452 2904/0181-960 6527 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no names basis. E-mail: christopher@qdrrec.demon.co.uk (not encoded)



Senior Employment Lawyer

Post Office Legal Services

Salary by negotiation

The Post Office is a unique organisation - a highly commercial group of specialist businesses with a global reach and a turnover of more than £5 billion. We are now seeking a Senior Lawyer, preferably with at least three years' employment law experience, to work in our Legal Services division.

You will be working in-house with one of the largest employers in the country, in a division which covers all aspects of employment law. Because the work is as wide-ranging as it is involving, it requires someone with extensive experience, commitment and adaptability.

Broadly, you will cover the whole field of employment law, both in the Tribunals and the Courts, and give employment policy advice. The principal areas of work are in the fields of Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety, European Employment Law, Industrial Relations, Maternity Rights and Contracts of Employment. Experience in all or almost all of these areas is a necessity.

To cope with the rigours of the job, you will need strong team management potential, the interpersonal skills to develop productive working relationships, and a good academic background to complement your commercial skills. In return, we can offer a challenging and intellectually demanding role with excellent career prospects.

The appointment carries a comprehensive remuneration package including a performance bonus, a company car, private medical insurance, contributory pension scheme and generous holiday provision.

For an application form, please contact Dawn Hawkins, Post Office Group Services Personnel, on 0171 250 2954. Completed applications should be returned by 2nd December 1996.

The Post Office is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Suitably qualified applicants with disabilities will be shortlisted.

THE POST OFFICE



London & Dublin • Cambridge

PROPERTY

4-6 yrs Popular Holborn firm with high profile property department offers genuine prospects to City trained Commercial property lawyer. Superb career move.

TRADEMARKS

4-6 yrs Major firm with growing trademarks practice seeks City trained solicitor wishing to join progressive entrepreneurial team. Strong prospects and good package.

EMPLOYMENT

3-5 yrs Strong non-contentious lawyer with Employment/Employee bene. work is sought to join entrepreneurial team of major Accountancy firm.

INFO. OFFICERS

To £60K Exciting full/part time positions in City firms for Corporate, IT, Capital Markets, Property, Consumer Credit, Tax, Banking, Pensions and Projects.

COMMERCIAL

2-4 yrs Genuine broad based Commercial position offered by major firm for top calibre candidate preferably with some experience of Multi-media, EC or Energy work.

PLANNING

2-3 yrs Major department of highly respected firm seeks specialist planning lawyer, with a private practice background. Superb role.

IP/MULTI MEDIA

2 yrs Top non-contentious IP lawyer with experience of IT, Multi-media or Broadcasting is sought by prestigious firm. Excellent working environment.

COVCOM

Exciting opportunity for top calibre 1-4 yr ppe Company Commercial lawyer wishing to undertake a broad workload in major Dublin firm. Excellent quality of life.

CORPORATE

Media Firm Popular firm with exciting media client base seeks top calibre 2-3 yr ppe Corporate lawyer to undertake a broad and unusual workload. Strong client contact assured.

IN-HOUSE

c 2yrs Specialist TV company has outstanding opportunity for bright young lawyer with ITC experience to join their team and advise on all aspects of programme content and advertising. Some libel experience would be advantageous.

INVESTMENT BANK

3-6yrs Leading global investment bank seeks bright, confident young lawyer for exciting front-line role within a small team. Concentrating on emerging markets, there will be plenty of overseas travel. Previous transactional experience is essential.

EC/COMPETITION

2-6yrs Exceptional opportunity for a high calibre EC/Competition lawyer to join legal team of world leading company. You will handle major corp/comm deals often involving EC issues. An adaptable, commercially minded individual is sought.

DUBLIN

Cambridge has much to offer London-trained solicitors, both in terms of quality of work and quality of life. If you are considering a move out of London and wish to discuss the opportunities in Cambridge, we would be keen to have a confidential discussion with you.

CORPORATE

Outstanding opportunities for high calibre corporate lawyers at the NQ, 1-3 yr, 5-6 yr, and 7-10 yr levels. Top quality work.

EMPLOYMENT

Excellent career move for a confident and capable 4-5 yr ppe Employment lawyer looking for genuine long-term prospects.

IP

Great opportunity for a senior Intellectual Property specialist to play a key role at top firm. Broad experience essential.

PROPERTY

Two superb new openings, one at the NQ level (broad comm. property), and one at the PLANNING (property development).

PLANNING

Excellent career opportunity at this established firm for a bright 1-3yr planning lawyer.



For further information, please call Caroline Fish (London/Dublin), or Bridget Burdon (In-House) on 0171 430 1711, or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171 831 4166.

0171 430 1711

صلى الله عليه وسلم



FRESHFIELDS

PROJECT FINANCE LAWYERS

Our international Project Finance practice comprises a network of lawyers represented in all our offices. Projects range from oil and gas and mining through to power projects and various kinds of infra-structure (including projects promoted under the UK's Private Finance Initiative). You would act for clients comprising project lenders and project promoters as well as, on occasions, government and public sector institutions. Encouragement is given to handling transactions in different sectors and different geographical locations. The broad client spread allows lawyers to acquire the experience of facilitating the proper structuring of Project Finance transactions and successful negotiations through to financial close.

Our London team comprises both English lawyers as well as US lawyers and applications are encouraged from both. Successful applicants will join one of the world's leading Project Finance teams in one of the fastest growing areas of international legal practice.

Please write in the first instance to Jonathon Hill at Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS, enclosing your curriculum vitae and an outline of your experience.

BANGKOK BARCELONA BEIJING BRUSSELS FRANKFURT HANOI HO CHI MINH CITY HONG KONG LONDON MADRID MOSCOW NEW YORK PARIS SINGAPORE TOKYO

LEGAL COUNSEL

Circa 5 years' co/co To £Competitive

ITALY

Our Client is the industry leader in the manufacture and marketing of branded consumer products, dedicated to global leadership.

The implementation of an aggressive growth strategy has led to the appointment of a Legal Counsel to support unique business challenges and opportunities. The position is based at the European Operations centre situated outside Milan, Italy.

With a UK or other Common Law legal qualification, you will have around five years relevant corporate/commercial experience with a knowledge of EU Law. Experience of Central and Eastern European legal issues would be helpful. Languages skills, although useful, are not essential.

Key attributes for this role will be a highly developed commercial awareness, a practical approach, a sensitivity to the requirements of a dynamic corporate environment with an ability to deal comfortably with management at all levels internationally.

The remuneration package will include a competitive relocation program together with attractive benefits fully reflecting the importance of the appointment.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Masie on 0171-405 6062 (0181-442 084) evenings/weekends or write to her at QD Commerce & Industry, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HL. Confidential fax: 0181 831 6394. E-mail: june@qdc.demon.co.uk.

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Advertising for a talented lawyer

International Counsel

London

Our client is a leading international advertising and communications group, operating in over 30 countries. This is a highly awarded group, which has an enviable client portfolio and a reputation for creative excellence. But they are not about to stop there. Their ambitious plans for further global expansion are already well underway, and they hope to achieve their objective primarily through acquisitions around the world.

So they are now looking for a talented lawyer who can help lead this drive. Reporting to the Group Legal Adviser, you will concentrate on international acquisitions, with a small percentage of your time taken up on UK matters, employment issues, client contracts and copyright.

With a flat management structure and an emphasis on growth, this is an exceptional opportunity to gain real international exposure and make a considerable impact on the Group's development.

For someone with 2 to 4 years' good post-qualification experience, including private company mergers and acquisitions, your background will probably have been gained within a medium-sized practice or smaller niche operation.

You must also have the flexibility and intellectual capacity to adapt to the variances of other legal jurisdictions and excellent drafting skills. You should ideally have some knowledge of employment law and possibly other languages.

In return, you can expect an attractive salary (between £32k and £40k), plus executive benefits. As you can see, the prospects for future development are very good. So if you think advertising is for you, please reply to this ad.

This assignment is being handled by our retained advising consultant, Lindsay Reid. Please contact him at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 7969.

E-mail: hwgrouphwggroup.co.uk



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A HARRISON WILLIS GROUP COMPANY

Litigation Partner

Are you seeking an exciting alternative to a large City firm, where you can join a respected team of specialists to develop your litigation practice aided by excellent resources and a department of highly valued assistants?

Our client, a profitable and successful 40 partner firm, has a thriving litigation practice with established specialities in Insurance, Construction, Property and Banking/Insolvency litigation. The partners are committed to the continued growth of the department and are seeking a young, dynamic partner with a strong background in one or more of these key areas. You will have a proven track record in practice development and are therefore likely to command your own client following.

This is a superb opportunity to contribute to the strategic development of a well recognised department in a progressive firm. The firm offers a particularly friendly working environment in which communication and team work are actively encouraged.

The partnership is wholeheartedly committed to this key appointment and offers rewards beyond the merely financial.



For further information in absolute confidence, please contact Caroline Fish at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Tel: 0171 430 1711. Fax: 0171 831 4186.

FOCUS ON LONDON

EMPLOYMENT

To £36,000
If you want to move up, you need to move on. And there are few better places to move to as an employment lawyer than this major City firm. Move in on this great opportunity if you have 2 years' ppe in both contentious and non-contentious work and perhaps some employee benefits knowledge. Ref: T29804

PRIVATE CLIENT

To £38,000
To find a firm that takes private client work seriously, look no further than this well-known smaller practice. Top notch work and clients, and the chance to make rapid progress, for a lawyer with 3 years' ppe, especially in tax planning, trusts, wills, probate and enduring powers of attorney. Ref: T32830

CAPITAL MARKETS

To £38,000
What do you get if you take one of the top 5 firms in the City, add pay and career prospects that will make it all seem worthwhile, session with more blue-chip clients than you can eat and finally sit in a capital markets lawyer with 1-2 years' ppe? A career feast that will satisfy the most hungry lawyer. Ref: T12285

PROJECTS/FINANCE/CORPORATE

To £70,000
You've really struck oil with the London office of one of the top firms in Texas. A ten gallon opportunity for lawyers from top 10 practices with 5-7 or 3-4 years' ppe in projects, project finance, banking or capital markets, or 3-4 years' ppe in corporate work. Ref: T18751

IN-HOUSE COMPLIANCE

To £Excellent
Needed: an ability to sit on the fence, or better, a Chinese wall. This top international investment bank needs a lawyer with 3-4 years' relevant ppe for a very sensitive position running its in-house monitoring system. You will ensure that inside information stays just there - inside. Ref: T32745

US CORPORATE LAWYER

To £60,000
City firms are arming back at their US competitors and are looking to build up US law expertise. Exciting green field opportunity for a US lawyer with 4-5 years' ppe in corporate and/or securities work, ideally with some experience of European clients or working in the City. Ref: T33249

PROPERTY

To £35,000
Fasten your seat belt, you are in the fast lane to partnership. One of the City's most respected medium-sized firms will help you, a commercial/residential property lawyer with 1-2 years' ppe, negotiate career chances and will accelerate you through the gears until you make the chequered flag. Ref: T33262

BANKING

To £33,000
This is a top time to be a young lawyer. Firms are regretting their recent recruitment policies and are snapping up quality lawyers. It's a sellers market so don't decide until you've looked at this top City firm. It needs a newly qualified banking lawyer and an asset finance/PFI lawyer with 1-2 years' ppe. Ref: T27665

COMMERCIAL/INSURANCE LIT

To £50,000
Ingenious for partnership? Look no further than this leading US firm's London office, which needs a commercial litigator, ideally with some insurance knowledge. If you are a barrister called at least 2 years ago, or a solicitor with 4+ years' ppe and lots of court experience, this could be the one. Ref: T23077

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £62,000
Five top reasons to join this top 5 City firm: top work, top clients, top prospects, top pay, top reputation. This is the way to the top for a quality company/commercial lawyer with 1-5 years' ppe. The job will offer you the full range of corporate work. Will look at US and Commonwealth lawyers. Ref: T15994

COMPETITION WITH TELECOMS

To £56,000
There is no competition. This top 10 City firm is in a league of its own and this is your chance to join it. All you need to give your career as a competition lawyer a very major boost is 2+ years' ppe and, ideally, knowledge of European competition law and how it relates to telecoms and media. Ref: T31905

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENT

To £61,000
Don't let the grass grow under your feet - plan ahead and ensure you enjoy a very comfortable and exciting environment in the future by joining the top 10 City firm. Your friends will be green with envy if you are a planning and/or environment lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe. Ref: T20356

PROPERTY LITIGATION

To £37,000
Bored with your work? Fed up with your prospects? Feel the moving and if so, this top 10 City firm, renowned as a place where there is rarely a dull moment, will give your career a new lease of life. All you need to take a massive career step is 1-2 years' ppe in property litigation. Ref: T32889

TAX

To £43,000
This is the chance to make your mark very quickly at a well-known medium-sized City firm. As a corporate tax lawyer with 1-3 years' ppe, you will go straight in as number two in the department and will not find anyone else brought in above you. The prospects this offers are obvious. Ref: T5088

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Deborah Dalgleish, Jonathan Marsden or Kate Sutcliffe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 or 0171-236 4292 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail: deborah@qdc.demon.co.uk, (not encoded)



UNITED KINGDOM • FRANCE • THE NETHERLANDS • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

Where exceptional is the rule



Finance lawyers

As one of the leading City based international law firms, Norton Rose offers a service that is designed to meet the needs of the most demanding clients around the world. Our highly successful Banking Department now needs exceptional lawyers both in London and overseas to increase the already considerable resources in a number of key areas:

- Project Finance
- Ship Finance
- Aircraft Finance
- Rolling Stock Finance
- Structured Finance
- Acquisition Finance
- Media/Telecommunications Finance

The Department needs individuals with character and resourcefulness, high achievers who are commercially aware and excited by the prospect of working on major projects in the UK and around the world. Lawyers with up to five years' relevant experience will be considered.

We can offer successful applicants the opportunity to develop their specialist skills across a range of challenging and stimulating projects – working in close contact with major international financial and corporate clients.

For further information and details of our opportunities for career development, highly competitive salary and benefits package please send your CV to Celia Staples.

Norton Rose

Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN.
Telephone: 0171 283 6000.

LONDON HONG KONG BRUSSELS PARIS SINGAPORE BAHRAIN PIRAEUS MOSCOW

LITIGATION

BANKING/AVIATION FINANCE

Home.....and Away



To £56k

Where others have followed, our clients have led. World renowned, and at the forefront of the legal profession they pack a punch rarely equaled.

Nowhere is this more the case than in their litigation department.

Practising in all areas of dispute resolution the firm now requires two additional experienced lawyers with between 1 and 5 years' experience. The first role is for a Construction Lawyer with litigation and arbitration experience gained at a recognised player. The second, for a Property Litigator used to acting in a variety of often complex property disputes.

To £55k + package

Paris in Spring could be more than a strong possibility for an eager solicitor looking to specialise in aviation finance with our global playing City based client. If you have between 6 months and two years' aviation/banking experience our client will be more than happy to supply a first class one way ticket on EuroStar – we'll supply the champagne, croissants and a beer.

If Paris doesn't tempt, then how does Bahrain sound?

Two banking specialists with between 2 and 4 years' experience are sought by this international UK firm. After a year of duty of three years or so, a return ticket to our client's City HQ awaits.

For further information contact Stuart Robinson or Michael Silver, in confidence, on freephone 0800 80 1974.

Reynell Legal Recruitment,
55 Fetter Lane,
London EC4A 3AA
Fax: 0171 353 7888
E-mail: reynell@reynell.co.uk

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Reynell
Legal Recruitment Consultants

Recently Qualified Lawyer

Investment Banking – to £30,000 + bonus

■ Our client ranks amongst the world's major, full service investment banks, employing approximately 7,000 people globally.

■ There are currently two opportunities open to people from a wide range of backgrounds: you may be a recently qualified lawyer looking for a change in career direction that will utilise your legal skills; you may be an accountancy/tax qualified or trained in a blue-chip environment. Whatever your background, you will have a strong commercial sense and expertise in handling and analysing data and financials, coupled with a real interest in what drives a business and the motivation of individuals at work.

■ These positions are part of a small specialist team, one focusing on international and cross border employment law and contracts, the other on remuneration management, both assisting in the development of remuneration and HR strategies and projects for the firm.

■ In each role you will gain not only an excellent strategic overview of the business, but also a detailed knowledge of particular

products and sectors. You will also need to apply the judgement and sensitivity required to manage remuneration across different cultures and for staff with varying reward expectations and career paths.

■ In addition to your analytical skills, numeracy and business awareness, you will have excellent presentation skills, both oral and written, and the confidence to contribute as a core member of the team. Prior knowledge of the financial sector is not essential, but you must be able to learn quickly. You will be naturally disciplined in your approach to work and able to manage a number of projects simultaneously.

To be considered, please send your curriculum vitae, including current remuneration, to Sarah Orwin at Ernst & Young Management Recruiting, Rolls House, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NH, quoting reference SD0073a.

ERNST & YOUNG

The United Kingdom firm of Ernst & Young is a member of Ernst & Young International

SHEARMAN & STERLING



PROJECT FINANCE LAWYERS

~ 1-5 year qualified ~ London or Singapore ~

Shearman & Sterling is one of the world's leading law firms with over 600 lawyers and 15 offices worldwide including significant businesses in the UK, France, Germany and in South East Asia. In line with its international strategy the firm has recently attracted one of the leading teams of UK lawyers in the area of project finance.

This team is handling a number of high profile international projects and is seeking to add a number of assistants to the team to be based either in London or Singapore. The projects work will include:

- Infrastructure
- Mining
- Telecoms
- Oil & Gas
- Power

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Country Landowners Association

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THE TIMES TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1996
FOOTBALL

Ginola to reclaim leading role for France

France's midfield maestro, David Ginola, is set to reclaim his leading role for the national team after a period of uncertainty. The 28-year-old midfielder, who has been a key player for Arsenal, is expected to start in the upcoming matches. His return to the national team will be a significant boost for France's chances of qualifying for the World Cup.

SHEEHAN

Robert Sheehan, a former international footballer, has been named as the new head coach of the Irish national team. Sheehan, who played for several clubs including Tottenham and Manchester United, has a wealth of experience in both playing and coaching. His appointment is seen as a positive move for the Irish football association.

Double
Three Spades Doubled by South

THE DONKEY'S FARS
A former's melancholy
A nickname for Miff
A Bait

By Philip H...
NUN
A Th...
A B...
A C...
A C...
A C...
A C...

صلى الله عليه وسلم

FOOTBALL

Ginola out to reclaim leading role for France

By DAVID MADDOCK

A DRAMA will unfold from France on BBC Television this evening. Not *EastEnders*, but Newcastle United's visit to FC Metz in the UEFA Cup, where David Ginola will be attempting to regain a place in the international side.

The Frenchman returns to his homeland not yet forgiven for his part in France's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals. To the French, his exclusion from the team is the best soap opera running.

Le Figaro, the respected French newspaper, suggested that Aimé Jacquet, the France manager, was "building a team as colourless as himself". Its ire has been raised by Jacquet's refusal to consider Ginola ever since the player gave the ball away to allow Bulgaria a goal in the last seconds of the World Cup qualifying match which decided that the Bulgars, not France, would go to the United States.

The campaign to restore the outcast has intensified over the past year, so it is opportune that he should be returning to France at the moment when the call has reached its loudest level. "David will be seen live on French television twice, and this is the moment for him to get his message across," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said.

And his message? Simple. "I expect to be back in the France side for the World Cup," Ginola said. "Maybe I'm not in the team because I'm too big a personality, but you know the world these days, it is good to have a personality. Many times I have upset people because I am honest, but I will continue to tell the truth."

"People have been saying that France are too defensive and that is not good because you need something special in the team. If not, the person watching at home on television will switch over to *Baywatch*."

There is a younger rival for Jacquet's attentions and, conveniently, he plays for Metz.

At 23, Robert Pires is six years younger than Ginola and, apparently, equally talented.

Ginola, though, believes his experience is a factor in his favour. At 29, he argues, he has reached his prime and would bring subtle qualities to the French squad that are lacking now.

Keegan agrees. "It is a great opportunity for David, but he must ensure that he does not take too much on, doesn't try to beat them all on his own. But hey, he is 29 we are not talking about a boy. He's experienced and knows how to play the best team role. He has been doing that for us, and if he repeats what he has done for Newcastle here then I'm sure it will be good enough."

Metz will be a stern enough test. There was thick snow falling on the French border town last night, a chilling welcome for the North East club. Metz have hit a rich vein of form and, in Pires, boast a talented player ready soon to make an international place his own. They also have Isalas, but not the Brazilian who sparked briefly for Coventry. It is another, younger, Brazilian who, at 22, has the youthful enthusiasm to dominate midfield.

Newcastle's task is made all the harder by the fact that Alan Shearer will not play.

Keegan confirmed that he will not risk the England forward in a tie where his side has a second chance. "Just because Les Ferdinand is injured does not mean that Alan will heal any quicker. He is not ready, it is as simple as that," he said.

Shearer could, however, still prove an intimidating presence poised on the bench.

Emerson, the Middlesbrough midfielder, is to resume training with his team today for the first time since his late return from a holiday in his native Brazil last week. That is expected to be the prelude to talks about his future with the manager, Bryan Robson.

Kevin McCarra recalls how Scotland ended their World Cup exile



Jordan meets Morgan's cross for the winner against Czechoslovakia in front of 100,000 expectant supporters at Hampden Park. Photograph: Glasgow Herald

Jordan rises and a nation heads for glory

I did not see the greatest goal I ever saw. The memory of it was cobbled together from a glimpse I had at the time and the television footage replayed later, but if the manner of Joe Jordan's header was a muddle on that September night in 1973, its meaning was jubilantly clear. His winner against Czechoslovakia ensured that Scotland would take part in the World Cup finals for the first time in 16 years.

Unless you were occupying one of the few seats, speculating at Hampden Park two decades ago was a strenuous business and the congestion was particularly severe at a qualifying match that, for the last time, persuaded 100,000 people to watch the national team at home. In the great amphitheatre of the old stadium, the players were remote and the angles impossible.

In the north enclosure, where the terracing was made of compacted ash held in place by railway sleepers, a shorter friend stood beside me, balanced on two empty lager cans, but as each wave of the crowd threatened to tumble him, even he could only make out snatches of the action. Twisting, leaning and grabbing a shoulder for balance, we were still engrossed. The agitation of getting a



peek at the game only added to the anxiety over its outcome, creating the great yearning of that evening. Scotland had last appeared in the World Cup finals in the year of my birth, 1958 and, as I made my flustered way through adolescence, Willie Ormond's side was attempting to take its place among the adult countries of international football. If teenage growing pains must be endured, it is nice to have the Scotland team to share them. Even with 100,000 tickets available for the match, the lunch-hour dash from school to a nearby menswear shop that sold them was still made in panic. At 15, there is a terrible desire to cling to the drama of football, and some of us forget to let go again. Ormond's side, however,

was to enthrall the whole country, and also to surprise it. With Tommy Docherty gone to Manchester United, Ormond had left St Johnstone to become the Scotland manager. The scheduling of his first match for Valentine's Day proved an invitation to doom as England provided the massacre, winning 5-0 at Hampden in February 1973.

If early results were miserable, Ormond was the perfect man to go scouting for fresh players. He was capable of extraordinarily refined assessment, of individual footballers and of the degree to which they would complement one another. Ormond was never in danger of snatching himself in complexity. In due course, the crowd at Hampden would revel in the chant: "Six foot two, eyes of blue, big Jim Holton's after you," but it took shrewd eyes to discern an international defender in Manchester United's raw centre half.

Given his opportunity in an

under-23 game with Wales, Holton is said to have, in quick succession, committed a ghastly foul and clattered two clearances into the stand at Vetch Field. Anecdote also tells us of the manager's appreciative response: "Aah, he'll do."

Against Czechoslovakia, Holton was one of five Scotland players who had been

recruited by Ormond. Old hands such as Denis Law, who was restored to the squad, and Billy Bremner were important, but it was the extraordinary band of newcomers, their talents and prospects yet to be established, who were fascinating. Holton, who was to die in early middle-age, became a folk hero of a defender.

Danny McGrain proved to

be one of the world's great right backs. Jordan, whose toothlessness only enhanced an intimidating aura, developed into the fearless scorer of several important goals for Scotland. Then there were the two men given their debuts against Czechoslovakia, George Connolly and Tommy Hutchison.

Connolly, so deft that he could afford his nonchalance as a sweeper, virtually gave up the game at 26. No manager was able to assist a person who, at heart, did not like being a professional footballer. Hutchison, on the other hand, was to display a celebrated longevity, and the match with Czechoslovakia had swiftly established his fortune. The next day, a newspaper photograph showed the many bruises inflicted on him by Czechoslovakia. Throughout the game, there had been fears of various sorts for the Scotland players. "Watch your legs, Billy," Arthur Montford, STV's marvellous commentator, yelled as an opponent moved in on Bremner.

The course of the match brought an even greater dread, because Scotland fell behind and had to force an equaliser through Holton. The winner from the little-known Jordan, a substitute for Kenny Dalglish, was routine, rendered great purely by its significance. With 15 minutes left Bremner had, tormentingly, struck the post, but the ball was worked out to the right wing and Willie Morgan crossed for Jordan to head tidily into the net.

"Who scored?" I bellowed in the human avalanche that crashed down the terracing. "Jordan," I thought I heard someone yell in reply. Sandy? The full back? What was he doing in attack? My interest in clarification was slight for a 24-year-old, but I was certain. Scotland at least had come of age, even if, for a 15-year-old in the north enclosure, maturity was to take a little longer.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Step-by-Step: Deceptive Declarer Play (Batsford), by Barry Rigal, concentrates on an aspect of the game largely overlooked by average players. There is some good stuff in it. An example:

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
<p>♠ AK3</p> <p>♥ Q6</p> <p>♦ AK52</p> <p>♣ A1086</p>	<p>♠ K2</p> <p>♥ A8742</p> <p>♦ Q3</p> <p>♣ J72</p>	<p>♠ J</p> <p>♥ 1085</p> <p>♦ J9874</p> <p>♣ Q854</p>

S	W	N	E
33	Double	All Pass	

Contract: Three Spades Doubled by South Lead: Ace of diamonds

West's double was "optional". I heartily endorse the opinion of the author, who considers this to be one of the world's silliest conventions. East had no idea what to do and chose to defend when it would have been more prudent to remove to four of a minor.

West led out his two top diamonds and switched to ace and another club. At this point, all South has to do to make his contract is locate the jack of spades, knowing West to be long in the suit. He found an ingenious way to improve his chances on the hand. His first move was to play the jack of clubs from dummy at trick four. East covered with the queen and he won with the king. He now cashed the king of hearts and led the eight of spades.

West, under the impression that South was 7-4-2-3 and that

his side had a club to cash, rose with the ace of spades and that was that. If West had ducked, declarer would probably have drawn the inference that West hoped for two trump tricks. Hence, he would have run the eight of spades, enabling East to score the jack.

Step-by-Step: Deceptive Declarer Play (£8.99) is available from either Chess and Bridge 0171-388 2404 or IPBM Mail Order 01159-422 615.

The first weekend of the Premier League has just taken place. At the top with scores of 73 IMPs are teams captained by Paul Hackett and Gus Calderwood. In third place is John Armstrong's team (+47) followed by Andrew Dyson (+22).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

THE DONKEY'S EARS

- Exoner's melancholy
- A nickname for M16
- A banlie

SAM BROWNIE

- A Federal hero
- A soldiers' song
- A sword-sling

NUMBER ONE

- A ranging shot
- A middle-ranking officer

JERRICAN

- A German tank
- A Confederate General
- A petrol container

Answers on page 48

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Great tournaments

Continuing my review of great tournaments in the run-up to Las Palmas, which starts next month, today, I move on to St Petersburg, 1914. This was played in two legs, but the players who reached the final could certainly challenge the Las Palmas contingent for the palm of being considered the strongest tournament ever. The St Petersburg field included Lasker, the reigning world champion, Capablanca and Alekhine, his two successors, and Tarrasch and Marshall, world title contenders. As at St Petersburg, 1896, Lasker, at 45, still dominated the next generation.

Here is his decisive victory against his closest rival for first prize.

White: Emanuel Lasker
Black: Jose Capablanca
St Petersburg 1914

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
g4	Nf3	Bb5	Bxc6	Qd4	Nc4	Nc3	O-O	O-O	Nb3	Bc7	Bxc6	Nd4	Nd5	Nd6	Rd1	Rd2	Rd2	Rd2	Rd2	Rd2	Rd2

22	Kf2	Rd7
23	g4	R6
24	Rd5	Re5
25	h4	Re4
26	axb4	Rxe4
27	Kf3	Rg8
28	Kf4	Rg8
29	Rg3	Rg8
30	Kf5	Nb6
31	Rg6	Rg6
32	Rh3	Rd7
33	Kg5	Re6
34	Rd1	Re7
35	Re5	Re5
36	Ne4	Nd5
37	Nd5	Nd5
38	Nd7	Re7
39	Rh7	Rh7
40	Rd1	Kd8
41	Rd8+	Re8
42	Re5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Lasker himself described the conclusion of this memorable game: "The spectators had followed the final moves breathlessly. That Black's position was in ruins was obvious to the very tyro. And now Capablanca turned over his king. From the several hundred spectators there came such applause as I have never experienced in all my life as a chessplayer."

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game J. Polgar - Hansen, Vejstrup, 1989. Judit Polgar is the strongest woman player the world has ever seen and often holds her own against the world's best. Here, she demonstrates a sharp tactical eye. How did she finish Black off?



Solution on page 48

Pure magic from the mysterious McHoans

A great moment in *The Crow Road* (BBC2) last night, the revelation of some important secrets, and a perfect debriefing reaction: "That's it," said Fergus to Rory, in disbelief. "That's your worst secret?" The problem with the McHoan family (as young Premise acutely remarked last night) is that they "keep dying and taking their secrets to the grave". But this interchange between his drunken uncle was a fine place to say why putting a skeleton in a cupboard makes it intrinsically more interesting than a skeleton left lying on the ground.

A secret (even a guilty one) can be quite banal, you see; it just depends which things you decide to keep to yourself. As a small child, I stopped an ice-cream van out of pure devilry (I didn't want an ice-cream) and the secret shame of it lasted 28 years. Secrecy makes ordinary events magically potent,

which is perhaps the point of *The Crow Road*. At the same time, however, a really terrible act — such as the schoolboy Fergus shoving another boy's head into a glass cabinet — becomes commonplace just because it was never hushed up or denied.

So, a lesson there for Jeremy Thorpe. I'd say Channel 4's *Secret Lives* last night was all about O what tangled webs he wove when first he practised to — er, whoops, no way out of it now — dissolve. We all remember the unpleasant details, of course, though at this distance they seem even more surreal: "Bunnies can (and will) go to France"; roof, wool, bang; the chalk outline of a great dane drawn on a lonely moor; and a satirical sunning-up from Peter Cook in a wig.

Thorpe is now remembered not so much as a politician but as a trial, so Roy Ackerman's film was actually most useful in reminding

us of the former Liberal leader's early black-and-white years as a charismatic electioneer, carelessly vaulting fences like an athlete, or greeting voters with enthusiastic hugs, leaving them starry-eyed and breathless. Dressed hilariously in a dapper overall, he emerged at a shop counter in his constituency to be interviewed for television. (He was, ahem, minding the shop for friends.) "Some people might call this a political gimmick," said the interviewer, respectfully. "Well, it certainly didn't start that way," Thorpe assured him.

It's Thorpe's story a "tragedy of Shakespearean proportions"? Arguably, yes. But the film last night was not concerned with Thorpe's inner turmoil or fatal flaws, being more intent on getting witnesses to speak "for the first time on British television", a phrase which is supposed to make you sit up and take notice, of



Lynne Truss

course, but which often (like the presence of secrecy) builds hopes too high.

So here we had Thorpe's friends and financiers telling their versions of events. Meanwhile, Cyril Smith and David Steel were subtly undermined: Steel filmed with his tie askew; Smith shot from belly-level, so that his waistband appeared just below his chin. Interestingly, Andrew (bung-

bang) Newton was one of the interviewees credited with speaking "for the first time since the trial" — which implies that everybody lost interest, that's all. One suspects Newton wouldn't need much persuasion to talk about not shooting that dog. Getting him to stop talking about it might present the greater challenge.

The trouble with the Thorpe case as a subject for *Secret Lives* is that the secrets were already out, free and cantering, in what they call "the public domain" (I always picture a big field with primroses, if it helps). No deeper plot can be found in the Thorpe story, unless of course the South Africans really had something to do with it. According to Ackerman, an agent from Boss (working undercover in Fleet Street) was assigned to watch Thorpe — because the Liberal leader regularly spoke on racial issues and denounced apartheid. Evidently, when Thorpe told

Harold Wilson there was a Boss conspiracy, Wilson believed him — which lends plausibility until you remember the extent of Wilson's recently revealed paranoia. What Ackerman failed to mention was that if Thorpe had come along to the Prime Minister accusing spies in cunning canine guise, Wilson might have shot the dog himself.

Big emotions in the final part of *Vets' School* (BBC1). The beautiful but ditsy Norwegian student, Trude, resat her exams and (incredibly) passed them. Relief and horror in equal parts. Trude naturally broke down in tears and so did I — though I admit I was mainly thinking of all the unsuspecting small animals she was now technically qualified to manhandle. "Your degree is as good as anybody's," she was assured, which only made it worse. Perhaps Trude just got nervous

in front of the cameras, but as the weeks of her training progressed, the *Vets' School* audience was rarely disappointed by her hopelessly diagnosed or wildly inaccurate answers to direct questions. Attempting to inject a kitten in the scruff of the neck, her needle kept coming out the other side. Trude wrestled with her self-confidence, as if veterinary knowledge was the lesser issue. Coming out of her oral exam, "I said so many stupid things," she laughed. "I was sitting there feeling really blonde."

Well, hastily leaving matters of pigment aside, I suppose we must accept that Trude was a much better student than she appeared on camera, and that Bristol University doesn't award degrees for sentimental reasons, or for fortitude, or for big blue eyes. But as I watched her tearfully reel from hug to hug ("I am so silly girl!"), I hugged my cats tight against me, and swore to protect them for ever.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (16093)

7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (16093)

8.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1611819)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (1) (1243428)

9.45 KILROY (1) (1675900)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with

Ainsley Harriot (1) (23108)

11.00 NEWS (16093) (2588513)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (1)

(1279432)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (1) (1623884)

12.00 NEWS (16093) (4849513)

12.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (16093)

(1) (17514074)

12.50 A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE

(1) (17514074)

1.00 NEWS (16093) and weather (40451)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (1) (1409242)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (16093) (1) (2401824)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (1) (16426)

2.30 THE TERRACE (1) (154)

3.00 INCOGNITO (1) (1611)

3.30 BRUM (16093) (16093) (16093)

3.50 THE ALL NEW POPPY (16093) (16093)

4.00 OSCAR'S ORCHESTRA (16093) (16093)

4.30 IT'S NEVER WORK (16093) (16093)

5.00 NEWSROUND (16093) (16093)

5.10 BYKER GROVE (16093) (16093)

5.30 NEIGHBOURS (1) (16093) (16093)

6.00 NEWS (16093) and weather (703)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (16093)

7.00 HOLIDAY All Dingo reports from the

Grenadine Islands in the Caribbean,

Sankha Guba samples San Ramo in Italy

and Sue Cook cruises Russia's lakes and

rivers from St Petersburg to Moscow

Moscow Don reports on a farm in Wales and

John Holdsworth's Christmas shopping in France and Belgium

(16093) (16093) (16093)

7.30 EASTENDERS Mayhem on the market

causes Joe and Pat and Roy's wedding

preparations are put in jeopardy again (16093) (16093)

8.00 SPORTSWRIGHT Special Desmond

Lynch introduces live coverage of

Newcastle United's debut, first leg

clash with the French club Metz in the

UEFA Cup (1) (17711158)

8.50 NEWS (16093) REGIONAL NEWS and

weather (16093) (16093)

10.25 THE TRIAL OF KEVIN MAXWELL: A FAMILY

STORY (16093) (1) (1134797) WALES:

10.25 Week in Week Out 10.55 The Trial

of Kevin Maxwell: 12.10pm Ruby Wax

Meets the Duchess of York 12.45 FILM:

On the Streets of LA 2.15 NEWS

11.40 RUBY WAX MEETS THE DUCHESS

OF YORK (1) (16093)

12.15pm FILM: On the Streets of LA (16093)

starring Linda Scott. An urban crime

play about a father-son relationship that

is unravelled in prison (16093)

1.45 FILM: Money Moves (1978) starring

Terence Donohue. A security firm

receives a top-off that its vault is under

threat from a gang of villains (16093)

3.15 WEATHER

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in the Video PlusCode for the programme

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SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (16093) 7.30

am The Love Connection (16093) 7.30

am The Love Connection (16093) 7.30

am The Love Connection (16093) 7.30

am The Love Connection (16093) 7.30

am The Love Connection (16093) 7.30

am The Love Connection (16093) 7.30

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Computers in

Conversation (16093) 6.25 Computers in

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CHOICE

When Rover Met BMW

BBC 2, 9.30pm

How times have changed at the Longbridge

car plant. When Rover was plentiful, strikes

were frequent and militants ruled the shopfloor.

Now, with 20,000 people chasing 1,200 jobs,

the company can pick and choose and

applicants are grateful for anything. One

says he would be willing to do a month's

work for nothing. Another says getting a job

would be like winning the National Lottery.

Whether this turnaround is due to Rover's

new German master, or a changed economic

climate, the film does not make clear. But if

there are no German accents to be heard, the

new work culture has an un-British feel.

Assembly line workers are called production

associates, derogation lines have gone and

no longer can the redneck of repetitive work

be relieved by a quick fix.

The Trial of Kevin Maxwell: A Family

Story BBC1, 10.25pm (Northern Ireland, Wales

and Scotland, 11.00pm)

The BBC seems determined to do right by the

Maxwells. Having recently mounted a

highly entertaining trial of Kevin Maxwell,

now allows the chance to give his



AMERICAN FOOTBALL 48

Young pretender takes lead role for San Francisco

SPORT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 1996

TENNIS 50

Graf's supremacy put to the test by Hingis and Co



Australians angered by approach

Venables runs into protest over job offer

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

TERRY VENABLES, the former England football coach, is still considering whether to accept the job of attempting to lead Australia into the World Cup finals in France in 1998. Venables spoke yesterday with David Hill, the chairman of Soccer Australia, and is expected to announce his decision today.

If Venables agrees to return to international management, Hill would have to have the move ratified by the board of Soccer Australia, the governing body in that country. Such is the influence of Hill, the former head of ABC, the country's national television network, that it is thought unlikely that his fellow board members would vote against him.

Hill is believed to have also targeted Jack Charlton, the former Ireland manager, and Howard Wilkinson, the former Leeds United manager, before travelling to Europe. When initial overtures proved fruitless, he turned his attention to Venables, who led England to the semi-finals of Euro 96 before standing aside for Glenn Hoddle.

News of a prospective Pommie coach has not gone down well with Australians. In a

poll held by the television channel, SBS, 34 per cent of the 2,800 votes were in favour of Venables taking over. Those against included a Mr Angry, of Adelaide, who wrote: "I am appalled that such scant regard can have been paid to those who have contributed so much to Australian soccer over the past years. The arrogance of Venables is only matched by that of David Hill. He [Hill] has treated us all with contempt."

Questions are also being

Ginola's home work 47
Greatest goal 47

asked as to how Soccer Australia will fund Venables's reported £200,000 salary, for possibly no more than four months' work. Eddie Thomson, who recently resigned from the job after six years, received only £90,000 a year.

Such is the association's financial plight that every player in Australia pays Aus\$1 towards the running of the national team. A month ago, callers were unable to get through to Soccer Australia's headquarters in Sydney

because, it is believed, the telephone bill had not been paid.

Jack Reilly, the former Australia goalkeeper, led the Pommie-bashing brigade yesterday. "It is totally inconceivable, an absolute farce," he said. "Venables knows nothing about Australian conditions and little or nothing about our overseas and local players."

However, Andy Bernal, the Reading defender and one of 22 Australian players based in England, said: "Terry is a great choice, really exciting. He can bring a new dimension to Aussie soccer. If you're running a business, you have to go for the best man, and you can't get much better than Terry. Maybe he can even fix up an Ashes series between England and Australia. That would be really something."

Venables, if he accepts, will have his cake and eat it, too. He will not give up his job at Portsmouth, where he is director of football. "It would not affect what I'm doing there," he said. "The Aussies are happy with that and so are Pommies."

Australia have qualified only once for the World Cup finals, in 1974. However, it is widely accepted that the qualifying series for 1998 represents their best chance for years. In the Oceania section second round, their opponents include Tahiti — who they beat 11-0 recently — and either Tonga or the Solomon Islands. If they negotiate a third-round play-off, probably against New Zealand, they take on the third-placed nation from the Asia zone qualifiers — perhaps Lebanon, coached by Terry Yorath, the former Wales manager. Then it is off to France.

Venables was yesterday awarded a reviewed judgment in the Central London County Court over another company's claim against Scribes, the West London club that Venables owns, having previously been ordered to pay costs amounting to around £36,000. But other high-profile cases are still pending, including an action for libel by Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman.

Aston Villa will send a delegation to Italy this week in an attempt to resurrect the transfer of Savo Milosevic to Perugia. There have been suggestions that the Serie A side have dropped their original offer of £4.5 million to £2 million.

ABA vote in favour of girls boxing

THE Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) yesterday decided to end 116 years of tradition by allowing women and girls to box in bouts in England for the first time. The ABA's decision, on a 10-4 majority, means the body falls in line with the rest of Europe, but the controversial move has angered the Association's medical commission.

Dr Roy Axon, the chairman of the commission, who voted against the change, said: "We are waiting from the European Commission on Boxing and we will take it from there. Meanwhile, the ruling body has decided that women should box and we have to accept its decision."

The ABA commission will meet on Friday to discuss the matter, which allows girls from the age of 10 to spar in amateur gyms to prepare for bouts from next October.

The move came on the day of the death of Fabrizio De Chiara, the Italian middleweight. The 25-year-old collapsed in the last round of the 12-round Italian title contest in Carrara, on Saturday.

Scott Welch, the former British champion, is set to face Henry Akpanwande, the unbeaten World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, in Palm Springs, California, on January 11.



Andy Gomarsall, who will win his first England cap against Italy, in action at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Leinster aim to upset tour record

FROM KARL JOHNSTON IN DUBLIN

TO Leinster went the distinction of providing the first opposition when Australia last toured Ireland, in 1992. At Lansdowne Road, the home team got away to a fine start with an early try scored by Niall Woods, but the sense of euphoria was short-lived.

Australia went on to overwhelm Leinster 39-11, running in five tries. Leinster will be striving to do better when the teams meet under lights at Lansdowne Road this evening, in the unbeaten Australians' third match in Ireland on the present visit, but the touring side will not be easily contained.

True, the Australians have fallen way short of the levels of excellence attained by their recent predecessors, whose *dan and panache* have been notably missing. But, even though Connacht and especially Ulster were dogged opponents, the Australians never looked remotely like losing either of those matches.

Giddins brought in from cold by Warwickshire

BY PAT GIBSON

ED GIDDINS, the England A fast bowler who was suspended for 19 months by the Test and County Cricket Board after he tested positive for cocaine, has not had to wait long for a chance to resurrect his career.

Only ten days after his appeal against the severity of his punishment was rejected by the Cricket Council, he has agreed to sign a three-year contract to play for Warwickshire when he completes his suspension at the start of the 1998 season. He will be paid a retainer while he practises in the Edgbaston nets and plays league cricket in the south of England.

The transformation of Giddins from a pariah — he was sacked by Sussex — into a much coveted cricketer may seem to have come about with almost indecent haste. But fast bowlers, especially English ones, are in such short supply that such a scramble for his services was inevitable. Giddins was courted by nine other counties as well as Warwickshire.

"Tim Munton [the captain] initially approached me a month ago," Giddins said yesterday, "and I met the chief executive, Dennis Amis, last Thursday to sort out the finer

LANSDOWNE ROAD TEAMS
LEINSTER: C Clarke (Trenture College); D Hiddle (St Mary's College); M Ridge (Mossley); A McGovern (Lansdowne); O'Donnell (Mossley); A McGovern (Blackrock College); A Ireland (Mossley); P Quinn (Blackrock College); M McDermott (Lansdowne); A McKee (Lansdowne); C Finn (Old Wesley, capt); M O'Leary (Lansdowne); N Francis (Old Bessborough); D O'Donnell (Blackrock College); V Costello (Lansdowne); P McKeown (Blackrock College); R McKeown (St Mary's College); E McKeown (St Mary's College); E Byrne (St Mary's College); A N Other (St Mary's College); S Larkin (Lansdowne); AUSTRIA XV: S Larkin (Lansdowne); C Clarke (Trenture); B Tine (Lansdowne); J Little (Lansdowne); N Francis (New South Wales); A Murdoch (NSW); P Howard (ACT); S Paine (NSW); C Clarke (NSW); A Caputo (ACT); A Hinch (NSW); O'Farrell (NSW); D Galt (ACT); T Galt (NSW); E Robinson (ACT, capt); M Briel (NSW); R McKeown (ACT); T Wallace (NSW); G Galt (ACT); A N Other (NSW); M Poley (Queensland).

Leinster show four changes compared with the team that defeated Pau in the Heineken Cup recently. Three of the alterations are enforced, since Niall Hogan, Henry Hurley and Paul Wallace were not available because they were with the national squad.

Aislin Rolland returns at scrum half instead of Hogan, while Paul Flavin and Angus McKee deputise for Hurley and Wallace at loose and tight head, respectively. Rolland's recall is not likely to bother the selectors, for they consistently chose him ahead of Hogan until recently, but the first-choice props may be missed.

In the fourth change, Cianan Clarke comes on at full back in place of Peter McKenna. Clarke and Martin Ridge are the only survivors from the 1992 team, while Jason Little and Tim Gavin played for the Australians in that match.

Only Michael Brial and Brett Robinson remain from the Australian side that defeated Ulster on Saturday but, with Little and Pat Howard back after injury, this team looks far too strong to be caught napping by Leinster.

The Australian management have sent for Dan Crowley to fill the place of the injured prop Richard Harry,

who is going home. The experienced Crowley last toured Ireland in 1992.

For their match against the Australians in Thomond Park next Tuesday, the Munster selectors will field the side that lost to Toulouse in the Heineken Cup. Four of the team will play for Ireland in the international clash on Saturday — David Corkery, Gabriel Furler, Anthony Foley and Dominic Crotty.

The Leinster Under-21 team take on the New Zealand Under-21 invitation side at Donnybrook today. The New Zealanders have already lost to Munster and Ireland.

Argentina add extra dimension to season of confusion

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE amateurs of Argentina arrived in London yesterday amid the confusion that professionalism has produced in English rugby. With a polite acknowledgement of England's problems, they expressed the hope that they could develop a fluent style of rugby during their seven matches, the first of which is against a London XV at Twickenham tomorrow.

Yet even they may be surprised that their opponents will field one player from the seventh division and nobody higher than the third-division clubs of Havant and Rosslyn Park, with one exception — John Fowler, the Sale and England A lock who was selected by two divisions over the weekend but has opted for his "division of origin".

It is symptomatic of this season that such confusion should reign, though it is Fowler's own decision not to play for the North against Queensland tomorrow evening. At the same time, the effect of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs not to release players for divisional duty is clearly optional since Sale, Orrell and West Hartlepool, of the first division, offer players to both divisions. The North have brought in Paul Rees, of Orrell, to replace Fowler.

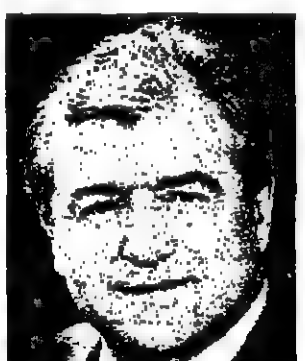
Unless there is some dramatic change in the political circumstances, a similar London team will do duty against South Africa A on Saturday, the weekend when the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup will bring Esler and Rosslyn Park — who provide five of the London team — together.

In the meantime, England gathered at Bisham Abbey to prepare for the opening international of the season on Saturday, against Italy, optimistic that Mark Regan and Ben Clarke would be fit to play. Regan, the Bristol hooker, played his first game for four weeks for his club second XV at the weekend after recovering from a damaged thumb and was able to train with the national squad.

Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand wing, will make a guest appearance for Ebbw Vale against a Welsh Invitation XV at Eugene Cross Park on December 4.

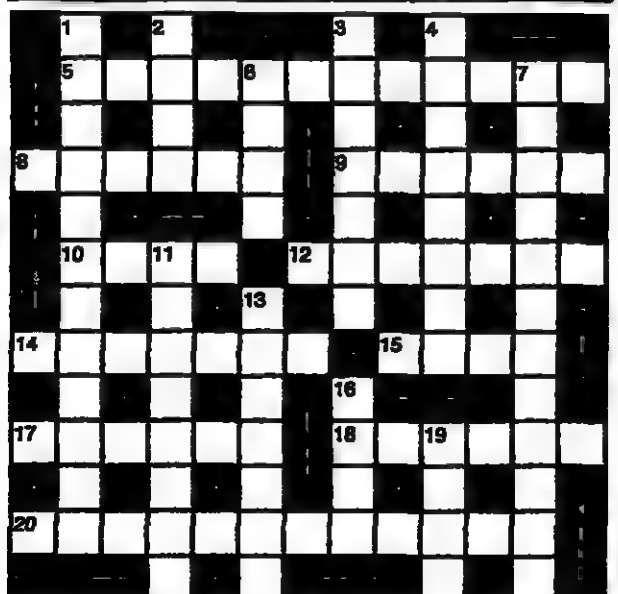
TERRY VENABLES

August 1980 — signed professional terms with West Ham United.
October 1984 — capped by England.
June 1978 — appointed Crystal Palace manager.
October 1980 — resigned to take over at Queens Park Rangers.
May 1984 — appointed Barcelona manager.
September 1987 — dismissed by Barcelona.
October 1987 — appointed Tottenham manager.
July 1981 — becomes chief executive at Tottenham.
June 1993 — dismissed as chief executive of Tottenham.
January 1994 — appointed England coach.
June/July 1996 — assess England to semi-finals of Euro 96.
August 1996 — takes over as director of football at Portsmouth.
November 1996 — linked with Australia.



Venables: moving on?

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 943

ACROSS

- 5 Street musician, had monkey (5-7)
- 8 Pairs of shoes; the poor on them (6)
- 9 Develop naturally (6)
- 10 Stained with writing fluid (4)
- 12 Lure shine (7)
- 14 Hummed and hawed (7)
- 15 Hop drink (4)
- 17 Be receptive (6)
- 18 Sudden, brusque (6)
- 20 Never-ending (12)

DOWN

- 1 Factor adding confusion (12)
- 2 (Malarial) shivering fit (4)
- 3 Non-verbal one honoured by city (7)
- 4 Make public (8)
- 6 Inquisitive (4)
- 7 One trying to overhear (12)
- 11 Sonata by Beethoven, Tolstoy (8)
- 13 Pseudonym (3-4)
- 16 One manipulated by another (4)
- 19 Red gem (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 942

- ACROSS: 4 Lad 8 Leonora 9 Impel 10 Tread 11 Gentle 12 Humanoid 14 Beam 15 Gory 16 Ignorant 20 Gilbert 21 Wing 23 Latin 24 Collect 25 Yak
- DOWN: 1 Clutch 2 Yoke 3 Cordun 4 Laughing stock 5 Diana 6 Ephemeris 7 Slalom 13 Morality 15 Giggles 17 Orwell 19 Tights 19 Jenny 22 Item

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS: PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS (REST OF THE WORLD ADD 10 PER ITEM). SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/US DOLLAR CURRENCIES ONLY (U.S. \$1.95 SPECIAL OFFER: £1 off any three books purchased). TIMES CROSSWORD: Books 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 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They're sexy, they're talented, they're highly strung, they're the biggest thing since the Sloane Ranger, they're the ...

Portobello Princesses



Justine Frischmann



Tania Kindersley, left, Jade Jagger, Isabel Fonseca and Emily Mortimer inhabit a small stretch of territory, where seediness rubs shoulders with stiff upper lips, and the pool player hangs out with the polo player



Bella, left, and Esther Freud supply looks and brains



The Sloane Ranger has been dead for years. You knew that. Retired to the country for ever to walk ageing labradors and polish silver and Land-Rovers. The Trustafarian, also known as the OK Yardie or Notting Hillbilly, is now yesterday's trendy — idle, druggy, wallowing in inherited wealth and failing to make any contribution in the new hipster meritocracy. The It Girls are on the way out: vapid party beasts like Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Tamara Beckwith (already known as the Had-it girls) embody a hedonistic excess that will clash with the social values and moral virtues of Britain under Blair.

But do not bewail their demise too soon. This is not the end of the easily identifiable pukka posse. There are still demographic charts to be drawn up in the posh parts of town, but they are delineating

something new. A previously unknown animal, rapidly increasing in number, is taking over the London scene. Hold on to your Lulu Guinness hat, and make way for the Portobello Princess.

The PP inhabits a small stretch of Notting Hill, in west London, a habitat mythologised by Martin Amis, where seediness rubs shoulders with stiff upper lips, and the pool player hangs out with the polo player, though no one can tell which went to public school.

In this strip of territory, running from seriously rich Holland Park at its upper end, to the wilder stretches of north Kensington, where once cheap housing accommodated black and Irish immigrants and the

food came in this, the vowels are now as long as the tails of the Nicole Pahrli overcoats, and the Portobello Princess is queen.

A sveite brunette of intimidating sexiness and ambition, she is well-connected (Portobello passes include Lucian Freud, John Mortimer and countless

of the Guinness family) well-educated and smart, with a high-profile and rather demanding job in something creative — publishing, the music business, theatre or film production — but appalled enough to keep an opium den in the basement of her house.

Names such as Gaby Dellal, the daughter of property tycoon "Black Jack" Dellal, and Atalanta Goulondris, scion of

a Greek shipping dynasty, follow hard on the first whisper of "Portobello Princess" — big family money, but not above starting their own production company, Stray Dog. Then, of course, there is model, artist, and showbiz daughter Jade Jagger, Will Self's former wife Kate Chancellor, of the scribbling Chancellor tribe, and her actress sister, Anna (Duckface in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*). Isabel Fonseca, a dazzling figure about literary London who became half of the quintessential Portobello love affair when she captured Martin Amis, is a Portobello grande dame like novelist Rose Boyl, of the Freud tribe and actress Emily Mortimer, who has recently bought a flat just off Portobello Road, near her parents. Then there is Elastica vocalist Justine Frischmann, who has a degree in architecture and went to St Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith, like the rest of her ilk.

Groucho and the Colony Room — but much, much cooler.

Tania Kindersley, a beautiful novelist and Guinness heiress, knows them intimately. Her latest novel, *Goodbye, Johnny Thunders*, anatomises the PP's playground. She says: "I am surprised they haven't fenced it off and started charging an entry fee."

GILES COREN

'I am surprised they haven't started charging an entry fee'

STYLE

Accessories: Louise and Joey Jackson, fake fur stoles. Lulu Guinness bags. Second-hand clothes from The Vest. Shoes by Patrick Cox. Wouldn't be seen dead in Chanel.

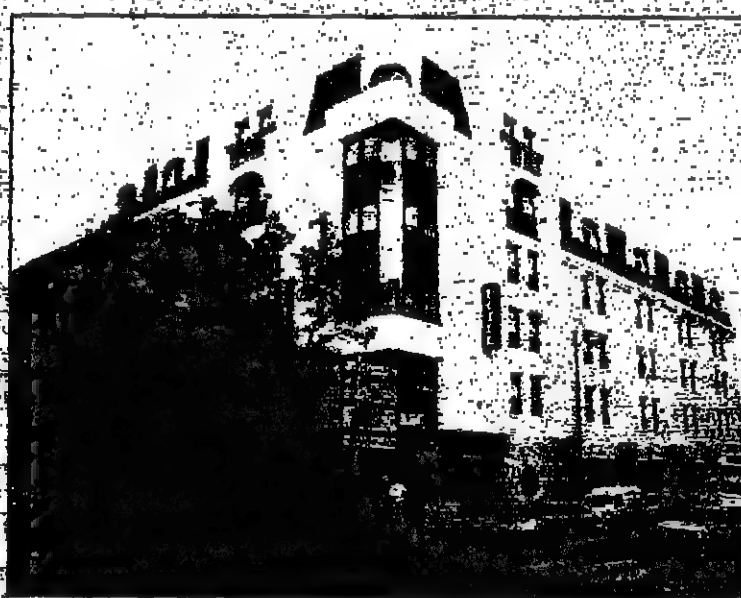
TALK

Never "OK yah", instead "cool". Never "Darling, have you got the keys to the Volvo", instead "I'll pick you up in my old green Saab". Never "I know let's go to Stringfellow's", instead "Let's slip down to the Globe and get absolutely mullished". Never "Darling, you look fabulous", instead "Hiya gorgeous, you look wicked". Never "Marvelous, wonderful, super", instead "Frisky, groovy, awesome, heinous".

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MEN

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ARMS TO RWANDA

A familiar story on unfamiliar ground

Britain, Michael Portillo said yesterday, leads the world in its "strict rules" on arms exports. That was just what ministers repeated throughout the Scott inquiry into arms sales to Iraq. For the British public, his assertion needs to be squared with the discovery by our Africa Correspondent of documents showing that a British-registered company supplied large quantities of lethal weaponry to Rwanda throughout the summer of 1994, when its former Government was carrying out the genocidal slaughter of some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The most rigorous and speedy investigation is a political and legal necessity.

What is at stake is the credibility of the contention that the United Kingdom is anything but a soft touch for illicit arms traffickers. That credibility was seriously dented by the Scott report's finding that ministers had connived in blurring Britain's policy with respect to defence-related exports to Iraq. But it was not destroyed — because what was also clear was that the policy itself had been more honourable than that of many arms exporters. Since the report was published, the Government has set out proposals, deserving of all-party support, to improve inter-departmental co-ordination of licences for militarily sensitive exports — the main defect in Britain's arms control regime identified by the report. Britain has also actively promoted the new 30-nation Wassenaar Arrangement to bar defence-related exports to rogue regimes.

In the arms trade, however, it is a truth universally acknowledged that no sooner is one loophole closed than another appears. So far as is known, not a single British-made weapon was included in the Mil-Tec inventories. No export licences would therefore have been involved. Such trade is not only legal; there appears to be no obligation on British companies to report arms sales, when these involve the shipment of weapons from third countries to a foreign destination. This is no way for Britain to set an example of greater transparency in the arms trade, which John Major prides himself on pressing for at the United Nations.

Some of the shipments appearing on the Mil-Tec inventories postdated the United Nations arms embargo against Rwanda, imposed in May 1994. These are legally in a different class and can and should be the immediate focus of criminal investigation by Customs and Excise. Under British law, UN embargoes are enforced by means of statutory instruments — in this case 1637, which came into force on June 24, 1994. It applies to all British citizens and subjects and "all bodies incorporated under the law of any part of the United Kingdom".

The statement issued by the Foreign Office yesterday makes the suggestion that arms brokers can "avoid UK jurisdiction and the UN embargo" provided the arms in question "do not ever enter or leave this country". Fortunately for the Government's reputation, the drafters of SI 1637 were sharper than Foreign Office lawyers. It explicitly makes it an offence to "agree to supply or do any act likely to promote the supply of weapons" to Rwanda without the authority of a licence from the Department of Trade and Industry. To pick up the telephone would be such an act.

That leaves one potential loophole which Mil-Tec's directors would seem to have been anxious to exploit. As we report today, the company is registered in the Isle of Man and its directors operate from Sark. Both are Crown dependencies and — as the Isle of Man proudly insists — are legally not "part of the United Kingdom". But both are subject to Britain in the matter of defence and foreign policy and neither has an interest in being seen as a haven for arms traffickers. Customs and Excise, which is determined to pursue the case, has been promised full Manx co-operation. In the murky empires of arms trafficking, ministers cannot be blamed for failure to detect shipments worth little more than £3 million — a quantity sufficient to do enormous harm in so tiny a country as Rwanda but infinitesimal by the standards of the trade. But "third party" transactions are a clear problem. The Government risks justified contempt if it does not draw the lesson and tighten up further.

ZERO TOLERANCE

There should be no blind eye to crime

The more vigorously laws are enforced, the more likely the law is to be respected. The only problem with the policy of "zero tolerance" which the Metropolitan Police wishes to introduce in parts of London, and which has been piloted in Hartlepool and Glasgow, is that it is not being introduced more widely. Not only will the charm of urban life be restored if more of those guilty of antisocial behaviour face police sanctions, it will also contribute to reducing serious crime. Where aggressive vagrancy, minor drugs offences and vandalism flourish, a culture of contempt for social order exists which allows lawlessness to take root.

The need to renovate civil society as a precondition of tackling violent crime has been eloquently and persuasively made in *The Times* by Frances Lawrence. It is tempting for the police, with many claims on resources, to turn a blind eye to minor infractions. But far from allowing a greater concentration of effort on tackling serious offences, such behaviour only guarantees that there will be more serious offences.

The liberal orthodoxy on minor misdemeanours is to tolerate them within limits, the better to contain them. If drug-dealing and prostitution are left to defined areas, such as King's Cross in London or St Paul's in Bristol, then appetites can be satisfied and the suppliers more easily monitored. It is argued that any action would not eliminate the activity, but only displace it and make surveillance more difficult. A policy which condemns the residents of a neighbourhood to civic squalor because it is convenient for criminals is, at best, cynical. The evidence suggests that such a softly-softly approach is actively counter-productive.

The policy of "zero tolerance" was pioneered in New York by Rudolph Giuliani,

the Republican Mayor, and his Police Commissioner, William Bratton. They developed the "broken window" theory, believing that unless small symptoms of decay were attended to, then the civic architecture would buckle. They recognised that the colonisation of parts of their city by petty criminals made life easier for more determined offenders. Indeed, by assertively pursuing those who perpetrated minor offences, the police found many who were also guilty of major crimes.

The aggressive panhandler who would otherwise have been ignored was found to be carrying illegal drugs or indeed a weapon when brought into the station. When the police started to treat an abandoned ghetto as though its citizens deserved to have lives as free of nuisance as those in an uptown area, people who had been in despair were given hope — and an incentive to report antisocial behaviour. The policy reduced crime in New York by 17 per cent, halved the murder rate and gave back the city to its most vulnerable citizens.

Civil libertarians in the United States have objected to the policy, citing the increase in the prison population and a doubling of complaints against the police as evidence of failure. But surely it is better that the inconvenience is felt by prison builders rather than the public and that the complaints come from those who have become the victims of criminals? Both Michael Howard and Jack Straw have played a welcome part in questioning past assumptions by insisting on the protection of the innocent before the indulging of the guilty. Both might be better employed working for an extension of "zero tolerance" than on any other enterprise.

MAJOR JAM AHEAD

A small hope of better journeys to come

For the motorway driver few things are more annoying than driving along a clear stretch of road and running into a sudden, and inexplicable, traffic jam. The delay is doubly frustrating if it has been advertised in advance: for so often are flashing overhead speed restrictions wrong or out of date that motorists tend to ignore them. Yesterday the Government announced, with great fanfare, a £30 billion scheme to end traffic jams on Britain's trunk roads by redirecting traffic from congested areas using high-technology information centres. Cheap, privately run and more reliable than the present warning signals controlled by the police, they promise an end to motorway misery. It is the kind of pre-election wizardry tailor-made to appeal to the voting motorist.

The plan depends on reliable information fed by roadside sensors monitoring the flow along Britain's 6,500-mile trunk network. Regional control centres would issue warnings, updated second by second, to roadside signs and local radio stations. Motorists would be advised to turn off congested motorways before the blockage, saving them valuable time and allowing the jam to clear. The privatised service would be free, paid for by a more detailed system of national traffic

updates which a driver could receive, for a yearly charge, via an onboard computer.

The scheme is being touted as an immediate benefit of the Government's Private Finance Initiative. Transport is a field where rewards are few, voters' complaints many and the Treasury capital restrictions inhibiting to any long-term strategy. Privatisation is at last offering rewards on the railways; the Government hopes that the same medicine will undo Britain's highway arteries.

A harsher look at this latest project, however, reveals it as less than it seems. Traffic volume, now running at 25 million vehicles, is expected to double by 2025. A massive expansion of the road and motorway network is not only unaffordable but is electorally unpopular. The huge environmental, architectural and pollution costs are already forcing a rethink on road construction. Inevitably, traffic jams will increase. The new sensor-controlled early warning system could even make matters worse by diverting so much traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, on to side roads. It risks defeating one of the very purposes for which most motorways and bypasses were built: to save Britain's villages and countryside from the destruction and danger of heavy traffic.

48-hour rule: why Europe is right

From Professor A. A. Dashwood

Sir, It is absurd for Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MR, to suggest, following the European Court's judgment on the working time directive ("Why our opt-out did not work", November 13), that the Court, as well as the Commission and the Council, believe "Britain's social chapter opt-out to be inconsistent with the process of political union in Europe".

The Court's judgment has nothing whatever to say about the scope or effect of the protocol and agreement on social policy negotiated at Maastricht. The case in question turned on the interpretation of Article 118a which empowers the Council to adopt, by means of directives, "minimum requirements for gradual implementation" with a view to harmonising health and safety conditions in the working environment.

Could that definition be understood as including requirements relating to the organisation of working time; or was the provision essentially concerned with physical risks, such as those from machinery, or toxic chemicals? The point could be argued either way, though the balance of expert legal opinion has always been in favour of the broader interpretation. The Court has now opted for that interpretation, and the reasoning in the judgment provides solid justification for doing so.

Mr Duncan Smith's attack on the eight existing articles on social policy in the EC treaty seems wholly misconceived. Six out of the eight articles have been in the treaty from the very beginning, while two of them (118a and 118b) were added by the Single European Act of 1986. All of the articles, therefore, predate the European Social Charter which was signed by eleven of the member states in 1989.

Mr Duncan Smith is wrong to state that "the key articles in this section are covered by qualified majority voting, which means that once a regulation is proposed in this section, Britain has no veto". The only legal basis in the chapter on social policy allowing qualified majority decisions is Article 118a itself; thus, for instance, successive directives on sex discrimination have been based on Article 235 of the treaty, under which the United Kingdom had a "veto" but chose not to use it.

Yours etc,
A. A. DASHWOOD
Director,
Centre for European Legal Studies,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Law,
10 West Road, Cambridge,
November 14.

From Mrs Judith Gardiner

Sir, Would it be too cynical to suggest that the row over Mr Major's determination to resist the imposition of the social chapter is a smokescreen to hide his Government's involvement with the "stability pact" (leading article, November 11)?

After all, he must know that the EU was entirely within its legal powers when it issued the directive on working hours under Article 118. The European Court of Justice ruling may or may not be unpalatable but in the end it will be implemented.

How long will politicians, on both sides of the House, continue to mislead the people about Europe?

Sincerely,
JUDITH GARDINER,
46 Gloucester Square, W2,
November 13.

Defence under Healey

From Brigadier Charles Millman (ret)

Sir, I would like to put the other side of the argument following Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius's highly critical letter (November 14) concerning the standing of Lord Healey as a former Secretary of State for Defence.

As one who served in Sarawak during confrontation with Indonesia in the mid-Sixties, I can only say that under his firm and able stewardship of defence policy we were substantially reinforced at a critical time, received the additional helicopter support we so badly needed and, above all, were given authority to conduct campaign-winning cross-border operations.

The overall result was that what was nothing less than a war was successfully concluded much earlier than had been thought likely and many lives were accordingly saved. Let us simply give credit where it is due.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MILLMAN,
Nile Cottage,
62 North Road, Hythe, Kent,
November 15.

Pedal power

From Mr Keith C. Kraushaar

Sir, I read with interest that certain train companies are planning to win back cyclists' custom "after 15 years of hostility" (report, November 11). There is talk of attracting more cyclists by issuing tickets that would make it cheaper to travel with a bicycle than without. I should like to know who will pay for this privilege of cheaper travel: I assume the average commuter without a bike.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH C. KRAUSHAAR,
26 Guildford Road, Rustington,
Littlehampton, West Sussex,
November 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hospital fast track for fundholders

From Mr Michael Smith, FRCS

Sir, Dr Anderson and Dr Warin (letter, November 14) describe the unacceptable two-tier system in hospitals, also highlighted by your report on the situation at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital (November 16). At St Thomas' Hospital surgeons have been advised by the local purchasing authority that it will pay only for patients who are medically urgent or who have been on the waiting list 18 months. A fundholding patient can be seen and treated much more quickly.

With limited resources and administrative costs rising, the situation seems bound to deteriorate.

Fundholders do not pay for emergency treatment on their patients, but this loophole, will, I am sure, be closed. Fundholding GPs will then quickly find themselves in the same financial predicament as the purchasing authorities.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL SMITH
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,
November 16.

From the Director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre Ltd

Sir, The suggestion in the Health Secretary's White Paper that a universally free health service funded from taxation is feasible (report, November 14) does not ring true, since patently it

does not exist now.

Take fertility treatment, for example. In France, four cycles of in-vitro fertilisation treatment are provided free by the State, yet in the UK some fertility services operating in NHS hospitals expect patients to pay between £500 and £1,500 per treatment cycle because lack of funds limits free availability. I predict there would be an outcry in Parliament if any MP's wife was asked to pay for her obstetric care.

Yours faithfully,
IAN CRAFT,
Director,
London Gynaecology and
Fertility Treatment Centre Ltd,
Cozens House, 112a Harley Street, W1,
November 14.

From Dr Alister K. M. Hutchin

Sir, I am a non-fundholding GP. On Monday a patient was told by a consultant surgeon's secretary that there was no hope of treatment before 1998. Such comments are common.

I suspect that it may now be official policy to force the remaining GPs, like myself, to become fundholders through patient pressure — or lose their patients.

Yours faithfully,
A. K. M. HUTCHIN,
The Group Practice Centre,
Victor Street,
Southampton, Hampshire,
November 14.

Wastage in the NHS

From Mr Roy Lilley

Sir, Your reports (November 6) on Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell securing additional funding for health and on the publication of the Audit Commission Report, *Goods for Your Health*, highlighting waste in the procurement processes in NHS Trusts show an ugly contrast between what is done and what needs to be done in the health service.

As far back as 1993 The Federation of NHS Trusts standing committee on supplies and purchasing, which I chaired, produced a damning report on the performance of the newly formed NHS Supplies Authority (NHSSA). The report was widely denounced as an act of disloyalty to NHS colleagues, meddlesome and inaccurate.

The Audit Commission's report mirrors the federation's in both findings and recommendations. The real waste is in the performance of the NHSSA which is paid and relied upon by hospital trusts to handle procurement of supplies on their behalf. It appears to have failed.

There have been nearly four years of dissatisfaction with the NHSSA. It chafes a familiar mantra about improving, learning and "getting there", but has consistently failed to deliver the goods to private-sector standards.

Most of its work is confined to buying and delivering routine, non-medical, items such as lavatory paper and light bulbs.

The NHSSA appears to be taking refuge in the fact that Labour have made it clear they have no intention of market testing it with a view to privatisation.

Anyone working in the NHS will welcome more money for health but the Government should also make sure the best possible use is being made of existing resources.

Yours faithfully,
ROY LILLEY
(Chairman,
Federation of NHS Trusts Committee on Supplies and Purchasing, 1990-94),
University of Nottingham,
Centre for Health Services
Management,
Nottingham, NG7 2RD.

From Mr Ed Robinson

Sir, I see that copies of the Audit Commission's damning report on waste in the NHS are available at £15. Who will pay such a sum for information that has been common knowledge for years?

Yours faithfully,
ED ROBINSON,
7 High Warden,
Hexham, Northumberland,
November 6.

War poetry

From Mr Charles Chadwick

Sir, Mr Douglas Hurd (letter, November 18) is quite right about Philip Larkin's poem *Naturally the Foundation will Bear Your Expenses*.

Andrew Motion, his biographer, has described the poem as "a piece of savagery aimed at an opportunistic name-dropper", and Larkin wrote in a letter to Robert Conquest dated July 11, 1961: "I hope it annoys all the continent-hopping crabs". The poem portrays the kind of fashionable, self-serving cynicism he detested. In another letter, dated November 11, 1984, to Anthony Thwaite he wrote: "Watched the Cenotaph ceremony as usual, that day when Queen and minister etc. Very moving." Just so. For anyone who knows his poetry he could not conceivably have felt otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CHADWICK,
25a Denning Road, NW3,
November 18.

'Pericles' revived

From Mr Jeremy Lemmon

Sir, It was a pleasure to read Benedict Nightingale's defence of *Pericles* (Arts, November 11) which he rightly calls an underrated play; but he does an accidental disservice to Dr Johnson: it was Ben Jonson, not the Doctor, who described *Pericles* as "a mouldy tale".

It's worth recalling the context of this sneer. After the humiliating failure of his play *The New Inn*, Jonson wrote one of his bitterest poems, an assault on the judgment and taste of theatregoers, "the Play-club" for whom "sweepings do as well / As the best-ordered meal".

The phrase about *Pericles* is a resentful side-swipe at a play which was still popular twenty years after its first performance.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY LEMMON,
4 Church Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire,
November 12.

Purpose of GCSE

From the Director of the History Curriculum Association

Sir, Sir Wilfred Cockcroft (letter, November 11) suggests that criticism of GCSE in a Times leader is a "slur on the character and integrity" of Keith Joseph, the former Secretary of State for Education, who introduced the exam.

In fact, it was Joseph himself who fuelled criticism of the exam within a few months of its introduction. Having announced to Parliament on May 5, 1988, that he was concerned to discover that aspects of GCSE history exams were "a straight abuse of the original idea" he went on to support a History Curriculum Association proposal for the GCSE monopoly to be broken.

In a letter to us at around the same time Tony Blair agreed with us that the GCSE boards might be operating a cartel because of their refusal to make GCE O-level exams available to pupils in this country. Wisely, for his own children, he has since chosen a school offering a Scottish alternative to GCSE. Keith Joseph would certainly have approved.

Yours sincerely,
C. McGOVERN, Director,
History Curriculum Association,
Windover, Puddletown,
Heathfield, East Sussex,
November 11.

From Mr W. J. Woodward

Sir, Sir Wilfred Cockcroft rightly chastises you for inferring incorrect motives to Keith Joseph. Many in the teaching profession, remember well Sir (then Dr) Wilfred's report, *Mathematics counts*, published in 1983 from which stems much of what is good in today's teaching of mathematics.

Paragraph 517 of that report states that:

It is important that responsibility should be properly defined at all levels within the educational system and that responsibility should be linked with authority, accountability and assessment.

Despite local management of schools, opting out, hit squads, league tables, the national curriculum and other initiatives we still do not appear to have got this right — as is shown by events at The Ridings, Manton and elsewhere. This cannot be the fault of Lord Joseph or Sir Wilfred, who both had the vision to point the way most clearly.

Yours etc,
W. J. WOODWARD
(Mathematics teacher),
Mounthfitcher High School,
Stansted, Essex,
November 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Passing notes on 'Mastermind'

From Mr Douglas A. Thomas

Sir, I was extremely disappointed to read that the BBC proposed to cast adrift *Mastermind* (report and leading article, November 15). My own mind had just become accustomed to the rigorous questions and my number of passes had reached an all time low of 700 during the last series.

I had been busy studying for my own specialised subject — the excellent programmes axed by the BBC during the past few years.

Yours tearfully,
DOUGLAS A. THOMAS,
24 The Lawns,
St Mary's Close,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
November 15.

From Mr Tom Bean

Sir, Your extensive coverage of *Mastermind* contains no analysis of why a programme that has variously been described over the years as "an institution" and "arguably the most difficult quiz programme on television" is to be scrapped.

In my considered opinion it is to go because the programme has declined in quality and lost public esteem as a result.

That, in itself, ought to merit your attention. How did it happen?

Yours faithfully,
TOM BEAN
(*Mastermind* finalist, 1989),
Ullington Hall, Honeybourne,
Evesham, Worcestershire,
November 15.

Bingo petition

From Mr John F. Garrett

Sir, On Tuesday, November 19, a petition containing half a million signatures will be delivered to 10 Downing Street on behalf of Britain's bingo players.

After fishing, bingo is Britain's most popular leisure pastime. Yet it continues to be the poor relation in terms of taxation and deregulation offered to those industries most affected by the impact of the National Lottery. No measures comparable to the relief offered to horse and greyhound racing, betting shops, pubs and clubs have been forthcoming. Now, whilst bingo is still reeling from the impact of the Saturday lottery, the Government is rushing ahead with a mid-week lottery in the new year.

The bingo industry offers not only low-cost entertainment but important social benefits to the communities it serves. It is essential that the Government responds with a sense of urgency to the modest demands for relaxation of our outdated restrictions on advertising and prize-limits if lasting damage is not to be done to an industry providing investment, employment and a great deal of pleasure to millions.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN F. GARRETT
(Managing Director,
Leisure Division),
The Rank Group plc,
6 Connaught Place, W2,
November 18.

Day's labour done

From Mr David Baxter

Sir, Launching the Labour Party's document on *Parenting* (report, November 14) the Labour spokesman on women said: "Parents want guidance on issues like bedtime." What nonsense! As a responsible parent of four children I can assure the Labour Party I am in no need of any such advice.

Is there no end to the regulating and interfering tendency of "new Labour"? In the run-up to the general election I want to hear about their plans for the economy and our public services. I can do without this sanctimonious and misplaced moralising.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAXTER,
3 Raymont Drive, Kesgrave, Suffolk,
November 14.

From Mrs Helen Potts

Sir, With fixed bedtimes for children Labour promises us, quite literally, the nanny state. Will we floundering parents also be told of the appropriate dosage of castor oil?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN POTTS,
The Grange,
Church Lane, Pinner, Middlesex.

From Mr J. T. Healy

Sir, What is a British bedtime? When our children were young, my wife was surprised to hear me reciting *Wee Willie Winkie* to them in the version I had always known in Scotland and which finished: "are a' the bairnies in their bed? It's past ten o'clock." Her southern English version had "the children" in bed much earlier.

Yours faithfully,
J. T. HEALY,
Northfield, 11 Murrion Bank, Perth.

From Mr John Raybould

Sir, "Labour wants British bedtime for children" (headline, November 14). Obviously a case of "Listen with Big Brother".

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RAYBOULD,
3 Chestnut Court, High Street,
Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex,
November 14.

REGINALD BEVINS

to shreds and fragments. At 19:45 a woman would disengage herself from the crowd and rush across the bar and the south side of the Abbey to the west gate. She would then lead a two-gang chase, crowd her, and sack through the crowd. Her presence at the back of the Abbey was noted, and presently the crowd was back to Bridge-street. Before that was completed, however, a woman was caught and taken to the station. She was captured just inside the main comrades, however, slipped the cordon, got on to the wall, and ran or flung herself down into the ditch of 12 or 15 feet. She was mounted to maintaining her was on a buttress, and she was saved from fall by two policemen, who before she could reach the ground, pulled her and her belt down. On their duty, one was disabled on the ankle, one was cut on the face and one had his hand cut.

After of persistent raiders who were sent to prison for over 30 at dusk, the depredations continued to arrive at 11.41. Each batch made a dash at the gate, and when the House rose, at 11:49 arrests had been made.

As telecommunications managers prepare for their annual conference, Ian Scales reports on the impact of upheavals in the industry



Gone is the clubby atmosphere of years ago when delegates grumbled about British Telecom. Now members at the annual conference in Brighton are in a fast-changing sector and will find network operators vying for their attention

The battle for your telephone line

When the UK's telecommunications managers assemble in Brighton for their annual conference, they will expect to be told just how far the UK telecoms industry has come and how they should brace themselves for even more change in the future. Even the steepest sectors hear these sorts of sentiments, but it is difficult to think of another to which they could be better applied.

A Telecommunications Managers Association conference ten to 15 years ago was a clubby get-together where delegates grumbled gently about the terms on which British Telecom allowed them to connect their companies' telephone systems to the public network.

At Brighton this week BT will be just one of dozens of network operators and service providers vying for delegates' attention at the associated exhibition as the battle for their hearts, minds and budgets enters a new phase.

Any telecoms operator can now apply to become a fully licensed UK international operator, where before BT and Mercury had a duopoly. Number portability services have been launched so that a change of operator need not mean a change of number, with its attendant expense and inconvenience. While this feature is expected to have the greatest impact on the residential market, where the cable companies are clawing customers from BT's clutches, it will eventually be applied to business customers where the requirement for a number change is thought to have dampened the effects of service competition.

International services is also a booming market and, again, it is the UK's large organisations that are the plum targets. But fresh in the minds of all those attending the conference will be the two seismic corporate realignments. After talk of a merger with BT, Cable & Wireless eventually opted to take

most of the UK's cable industry under its wing. Then, only weeks later, BT announced that it would merge with MCI, its American global service partner. The industry as a whole is still absorbing the likely immediate and long-term impact of this shuffle of the deck. Licensed as a patchwork of cable television franchises, the cable communications industry has found its geographical fragmentation a serious barrier to telecoms competition and mergers had long been urged and expected. But the sudden consolidation of Mercury Communications, NYNEX Cablecomms, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron took the cable industry by surprise.

The move put more than half of the existing franchised homes under the control of one group leaving Telewest, previously the largest operator with its four million franchised homes, three remaining operators with between one and two million homes and a rump of minnows. Further consolidations are expected.

BT has not yet been forced to implement equal access

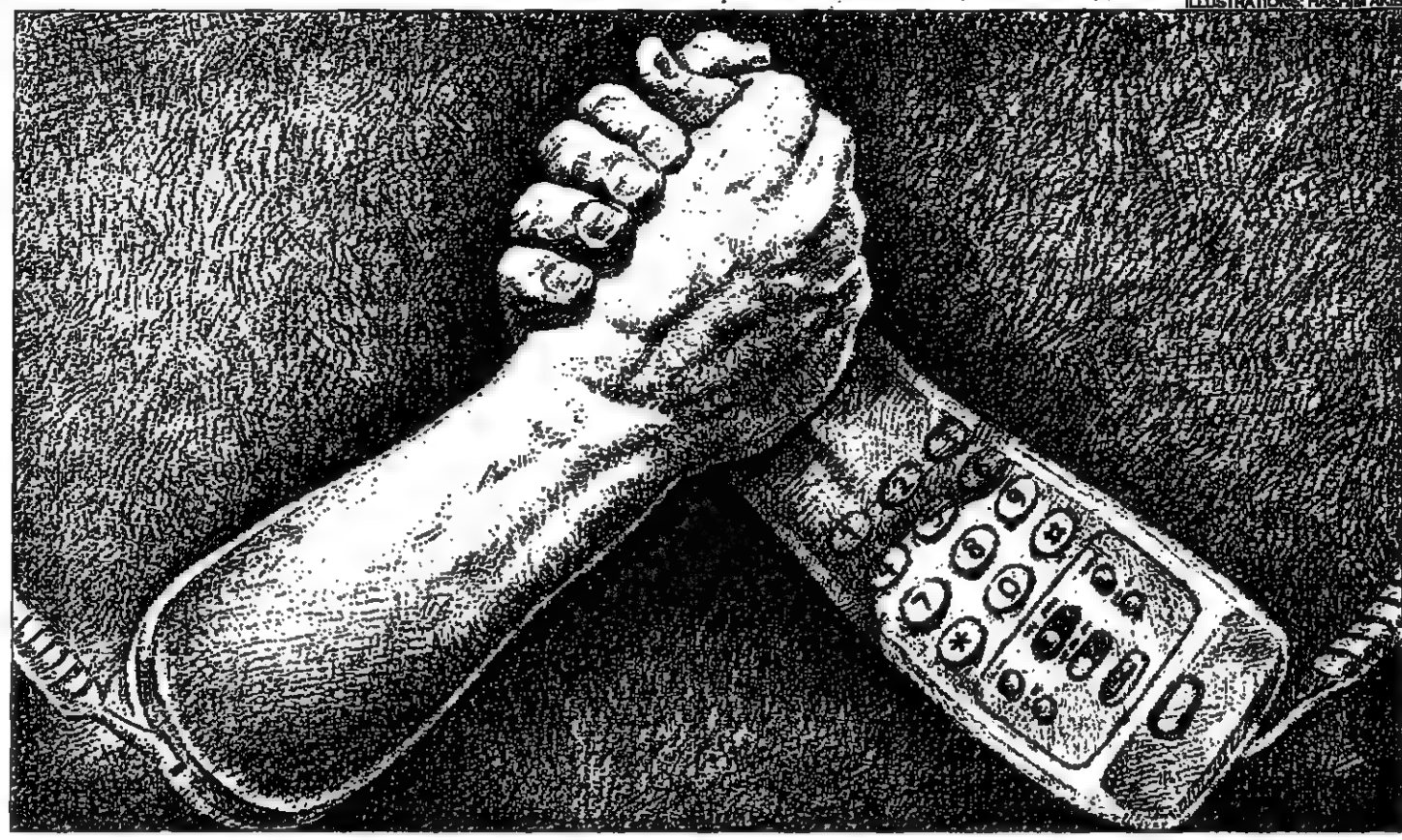
Now Cable and Wireless Communications, as BT and Mercury had a duopoly. Number portability services have been launched so that a change of operator need not mean a change of number, with its attendant expense and inconvenience. While this feature is expected to have the greatest impact on the residential market, where the cable companies are clawing customers from BT's clutches, it will eventually be applied to business customers where the requirement for a number change is thought to have dampened the effects of service competition.

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the new group is called, faces a lengthy business re-engineering process as it attempts to knit its still-fragmented holdings together. BT's decision to throw in its lot with MCI is a final recognition that publicly quoted incumbent operators must take their focus offshore if they are to keep their revenues growing in the longer term. Without the merger, BT could only look forward to having its UK market share chipped away.

While the telecoms services' cake itself is growing, due in part to competition, BT's slice and the tightening noose thrown around its profits by the regulator means it must find new, growing revenue streams if the shareholders are to be kept happy. BT has cash and MCI needs it to take advantage of the opportunities created by deregulation in the UK market.

For telecoms users both moves



can only serve to quicken the pulse of competition in the UK market. While some concerns have been expressed over the development of a new duopoly through the formation of Cable and Wireless Communications, this move also makes it more likely that the cable groups as now constituted will end up competing head on with each other where before they tended to co-operate. And Mercury, after all, will continue to compete with the remaining cable operators for business customers.

Delivering business services by microwave radio could be one means by which this new competition could be brought to bear without further digging up the streets. There are signs of unease, however.

Telia UK, a subsidiary of the Swedish national operator which

offers international telecoms services to UK business users, claims there is a danger that "smaller, innovative operators" could be squeezed out.

At present the cable companies do not have to give their customers access to competitive service providers like Telia, BT and Mercury do. But in fact it is more likely that the regulator will eventually move to change the rules, at least for those access operators who build a significant customer base. Some UK operators think the regulatory environment could still tip more in the direction of new entrants. In the UK the principle that BT customers

should be able to use the services of another operator — for international calls for instance — has been well established. But BT has not yet been forced to implement completely equal access as it is applied in the United States. There, subscribers are able to nominate the long distance carrier of their choice and all their calls are routed to the right network. In the UK, BT remains the default option for its customers, who must dial a prefix to use an alternative carrier.

AT&T is especially keen that BT be subject to this requirement and views its proposed merger with MCI as an opportunity to point out

that the "equal access" advantage it gains when in competition with AT&T in the American market has not been yielded in the UK where roles are reversed.

Other competitive operators remain more sanguine. John Beaumont, director of strategy and business development at Energis, believes neither the BT nor Cable & Wireless moves will have any effect on his company's prospects. He says both moves are a logical progression and will ultimately enhance the competitive environment in the UK.

Referring to the BT/MCI merger he says: "They must be able to make one plus one equal three or more. There are undoubtedly lots of incremental benefits and synergies flowing from the merger." Most UK telecoms managers will probably agree.

There are lots of benefits flowing from the merger

Paxman to host main conference seminars

TMA29, the 29th annual convention of the Telecommunications Managers Association, takes place in Brighton on November 25-27. The theme, *Unleashing the Corporation*, will address the challenge of how companies, large and small, can learn to marry business objectives with new technologies to fulfil the potential of their business.

For the industry, the TMA puts the issue starkly: "Those which harness the power generated by technology — data, voice and image — can adapt to the changing marketplace, and continue to thrive. Those which do not cannot hope to survive."

The main conference sessions will be chaired by the television broadcaster Jeremy Paxman and will examine how technologies will develop, how global markets will change and how partnerships will alter the way in which the industry conducts its business.

Speakers will include Margaret Beckett, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, Richard Brown, chief executive of Cable & Wireless, Don Cruickshank, Director General of Ofcom, Nigel Tully, director of telecoms and media industries at IBM, and Merrill Tutton, chief executive of AT&T (UK). TMA Scotland is holding its own event in Glasgow on November 25 and 26, and several sessions of the Brighton conference will be teleconferenced from Brighton to the Scottish delegates.

Further information from TMA Venues: Tel: 01372 361000. Fax: 01372 418888.

Enter the inward-looking Internet

INTRANET TECHNOLOGY

Imagine being able to send a corporate-wide memo across several countries at the touch of a button. Imagine being able to drastically reduce the cost of information technology support while transforming its ability to communicate and give staff information that they need. Intranet technology promises all of the above and more.

Perhaps best described as corporate-wide webs, intranets involve bringing together Internet and traditional office network technology. Matt Reid, intranet business development manager at Sun Microsystems, describes intranets as "deploying Internet technology inside an organisation".

The eventual aim is to enable office workers to abandon their bulky computers. Instead they will have a network computer (NC) taking its processing power and therefore its software from a server. From their NCs, users will be able to surf the corporate highway from wherever they choose to set it up. Intranets do not have to use NCs but they are cited as being the future because they provide a cheaper and more efficient network solution. With support and maintenance, desktop computers can end up costing several times their original price. Software on an intranet is installed onto a server and only needs to be supported from that point.

However, "browsers" are the key attraction to intranets. Browser technology can run on any machine. The success of the Internet bears testament to its ease of use. Users are not restricted in what applications they can have access to, regardless of what machine they are working on. A web browser can deal with text, images, sound, video and software. All

the users have to do is select what they want and download it from the server.

Mercury Communications has recently installed an intranet called QuickSilver. Jim Reynolds, head of Internet products and services, says that in its early days it is mainly a source of ad hoc information. "Employees can access information on holidays, pensions, company cars etc. In the long term it will be a useful tool to assist in general process re-engineering."

He makes the point that most corporations have the infrastructure already in place to set up their own intranets: "Most companies will have to

do little more than invest in servers."

But the single most impressive thing about this technology is its ability to exist without relying on a single manufacturer for any one of its component parts. Servers, desktop units and browsers are all available from an array of sources — and they all work perfectly well together.

Glaxo Wellcome, the pharmaceutical giant, installed an intranet in 1995 to provide a cost effective way of delivering information to its research arm. One of the first things that the company put on the web was its phone book and restaurant menus. Roger

James, leader of web technology and advancement at Glaxo Wellcome, says: "We were keen for people to learn about the system. People want

to be able to explore and not feel threatened, and if you can find an enjoyable activity they will experiment with the system and learn at the same time."

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Online race goes to the wire

Robin Arnfield on the cable combines who want to grab a big share in the digital television revolution



The race is on to provide multimedia services to homes and businesses in Britain. Cable television companies are preparing to launch high-speed Internet access in competition with BT, while bracing themselves to deliver multichannel digital TV ahead of BSkyB. Businesses are looking to the Internet to give them a competitive edge in sales and marketing as well as in internal communications.

Two large cable television companies, Nynex CableComms and TeleWest, have recently started trials of cable modems involving business and residential customers. Cable modems connect to high-capacity coaxial cable television lines, allowing access to the Internet at speeds of up to ten times faster than a modem operating through a standard copper telephone line.

Both Nynex and TeleWest expect to offer PC users access to the Internet from cable modems by the middle of next year, having postponed earlier plans to offer interactive television services such as video-on-demand. Ian Hood, a spokesman for TeleWest, says: "Interactive TV is a technology without a proven market, whereas there is an immediate demand for high-speed Internet access."

Next autumn, BSkyB — in which News International, owner of the *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake — will launch digital services offering 150 to 200 channels of satellite television as well as interactive services such as video-on-demand, home shopping, banking and Internet access. Faced with this threat, the cable companies have begun a consolidation process which is likely to leave them with just two or three big operators by the end of next year.

Last month, three cable companies, Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron, merged with Mercury Communications, the British subsidiary of Cable & Wireless, the international telecommunications company. The newly-formed powerhouse, called Cable & Wireless Communications, will have access to six million franchise homes, compared to TeleWest's 4.2 million homes. Because it is banned from

broadcasting television to homes, BT has yet to replace its copper lines in the local loop with higher-speed optical fibre. However, there have been widespread press reports that it is planning next year to deploy ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line) technology nationwide.

ADSL allows digitally-compressed video signals to be transmitted over existing copper lines, enabling BT to offer fast Internet access as well as video-on-demand.

In June, BT completed a 12-month test of interactive television in East Anglia using ADSL. It says the services on offer were warmly received, with the home-shopping purchase rate similar to mail order and 75 per cent of the 5,000 people involved in the test ordering two to three videos a month.

The cable television companies are working hard to ensure that their networks are ready to switch to digital at the same time as BSkyB and any BT interactive service. Mr Hood says that even if "some of the pieces do not fit, we still won't delay the launch of digital TV". Initially, the cable

companies will concentrate on providing a large number of digital television channels plus video-on-demand and pay-per-view.

The specifications that the

cable companies are drawing up for their digital television set-top boxes are expected to include the capability to access the World Wide Web and a network of interconnected

pages of multimedia information on the Internet. With the imminent launch of WebTVs, a television set incorporating Internet access software and hardware, and improvements in PCs' ability to handle sound and video, it is hard to determine which will become the dominant gateway to consumer multimedia services.

The Internet is already having a serious impact on British businesses, with promotional Web sites proliferating and companies in every sector investigating the possibility of online commerce. According to KPMG Management Consultants, marketing directors at British companies with turnovers of more than £200 million expect revenues from Internet-related business to reach 17 per cent of total sales by 2000.

Intranets, internal company networks based on Internet technology, are a major breakthrough. In April, a BT audit estimated that by using intranets to disseminate information throughout the organisation, executives could save 18 per cent of their time, equivalent to a day a week, or £350 million a year for a company of BT's size.

■ The author is editor of the *Financial Times* newsletter and multimedia business analyst.

It's cheap, flexible and poised for take-off

Annie Turner reports on the advantages of group calling

The telephone has become such an intrinsic part of our lives that we tend to overlook its two primary drawbacks: we can normally only talk to one other individual at once and we cannot see the person to whom we are speaking.

Solutions to remedy the latter — video phones for the home and video conferencing for the office — attract much coverage, even though video phones so far are expensive with low quality pictures.

On the other hand, so-called teleconferencing that allows anything from three to hundreds of people to be involved in the same call tends to attract little attention beyond expensive chairman services. Yet it is cheap, flexible, could be widely available and has some big advantages over video and voice links.

Terri Veitch is director of the Community Network, a charity that sets up and administers affordable teleconferences for a diverse

range of groups that want to communicate by phone. She says the organisation has experienced a four-fold increase in conferences since 1992 to reach 230 sessions a month over the last year, with an average of eight participants. Ms Veitch says: "Ninety eight per cent of the UK population has access to a phone and telephone groups can alleviate stress, provide comfort and support by reaching out to those who need it most."

Community Network also runs international sessions. For example, it ran sessions for modern language students at the Open University who live in remote areas such as the Highlands and Islands and isolated places in northern Europe.

Until now these kinds of services have been the province of the business world, which does not mind paying a premium price, but there are indications that this is about to change. According to Frost & Sullivan, analysts, the worldwide market for teleconferencing — equipment and services — is estimated to be worth \$2,000 million (£1,200 million) a year and is growing at around 30 per cent annually. Jeff Wilson, chairman of Telsis, a company in Fareham, Hampshire, that specialises in providing teleconferencing equipment to public operators and private enterprises, explains: "There will be a big shift in the way teleconferencing services are marketed and priced. Telecoms competition in the UK means the phone companies are desperate to find ways of stimulating call volumes and differentiating their services."

■ Community Network can be contacted on 0171-359 4594.

VOICE PROCESSING

Press-button information

Though sometimes annoying, being answered by a voice processing system is better than no answer at all. Voice processing can save time, money and the tempers that may flare when phones are left unanswered.

Combined with clear options, including default to an operator, voice processing can relieve switchboard operators of the onerous task of responding to routine inquiries, leaving them free to offer a better service to callers who cannot be handled by the system. "Our 150 and 151 customer service facilities are the primary contact for 25 million residential customers nationally," says Eddy Sobieralski, CTI systems manager at BT. "We live and die by the perception of our quality of service and the performance offered to customers."

With about 15 per cent of all calls to customer service centres being wrongly channelled, BT invested £1.2 million in a Synthesist interactive voice response system that handles approximately 170,000 residential sales, accounts and repair service inquiries daily.

Emergency services are using voice processing to disseminate information fast. The Lincolnshire police are using a Kingston Communications' system to beat thieves. "If we get information on crimes, suspicious people or vehicles, the computer relays a pre-recorded message to 3,000 neighbourhood watch co-ordinators," says Inspector Ken Menzies. "We use the system to protect horses, and 900 local farmers will soon join the scheme to combat arson attacks and livestock theft."

Rather than relying on the police slowly knocking on doors warning of flood danger, the Environment Agency asked Kingston Communications to install 26 separate voice processing systems around the country.

"Computers store the numbers of properties at risk in an area and, when necessary, they are called with instructions from the police. The system logs unconfirmed calls and that information is given to the emergency services," explains Brendan Paddy at the Environment Agency. "There are 4,000 addresses in England and Wales at high risk from flooding, but we can now

extend warnings to 14,000 properties."

The thousands of flight information inquiries to Newcastle Airport are now processed by software connecting callers to a live and continually updated database. "Following voice prompts, callers can use flight numbers or arrival/departure times to get accurate information. The system is being expanded to include weather reports and parking tariffs," says Deb Tate, Kingston Communications' marketing manager.

Up to 2,500 calls are phoned in daily to the College of North East London during student enrolment. In the past they were handled by two operators and 11 incoming lines. Frustrated, prospective students hung up when calls were unanswered. The solution was an eight-line C3 Tealink system which answers all incoming calls to the main college number. "Overall it has reduced the amount of repetitive calls we answer, so we can handle other callers more efficiently," says Anusya Rathod, admissions officer. Iceland, the frozen food retailer, has integrated its telephony and computer resources to create a PC-based voice processing system. Pre-recorded messages are phoned through to individual stores telling them that order information has not been received. Before the C3 system, staff dialled each branch manually.

Voice processing is used in as many ways as there are organisations, and technology is adding new functions and flexibility. "Integrated into the computer environment these systems are eliminating barriers between text, speech and fax. Before long voice messages will be automatically converted to text, but now they are stored on servers — eliminating transcription costs and improving message accuracy," explains Mary Parker, director of strategy, messaging products, Lucent Technologies.

"We are entering a world of multimedia messaging accessed by multiple devices. Lotus Notes will be used from a phone and voice or text messages will be sent from any device to anyone anywhere in the world."

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PAYPHONES

A call and a drink is on the cards

Plain old payphones are moving beyond voice services. Smartcard technology is showing the way. Even the humble Phonecard, which contains pre-paid units for calls, could soon be used to buy small items.

The latest BT Phonecards contain a computer chip. This means they can store a variety of information and can be read by smartcard readers. BT says that in future it will be possible to use Phonecards not just in payphones, but also to pay for items like drinks from vending machines.

Christine Walter, customer marketing manager for BT payphones, says: "Phonecards have a role as a stepping-stone towards 'electronic purse' cards. They will help get consumers used to the idea of paying for goods with a pre-paid 'cash' card."

Telecommunications companies like BT hope electronic cash will catch on because it would increase telephone usage, as money is transferred onto the cards over the phone. BT is working with Mondex (an elec-

tronic purse standard developed by National Westminster Bank, Midland Bank and BT) and is also watching developments with other electronic purse cards.

In trials in Swindon, and Exeter and York universities, specially equipped payphones can load money — over the phone — onto a Mondex smart card. The cards can be used to pay for parking, items in local newsagents and phone calls.

The very latest BT payphones — called Touchpoint — have touch-sensitive screens which allow consumers to book holidays, check out local services and so on.

Another innovation in payphones makes it possible for deaf people to make calls. At airports and major stations, text payphones with keyboards to type messages can be used — either to communicate with another text payphone — or to relay a message via an operator. The spoken reply is then typed by the operator, so the deaf caller can read it.

JOIA SHILLINGFORD

Competition has cut the cost of mobiles, says Joia Shillingford, but there is a cheaper answer

Don't ring, page me, please

Orange, the cellular network operator, caused quite a stir when it introduced per-second billing in the UK. But have mobile phone calls really got much cheaper? Orange offered a simple pricing package, with a certain amount of free usage thrown in and per-second billing. Customers loved it. Not surprisingly, Vodafone and Cellnet fought back.

Both companies introduced per-second billing in at least some of their price packages. The outcome was that mobile prices have come down a bit, although calls from mobiles still cost far more than calls from a fixed phone.

Vodafone and Cellnet have both come out with bundled price packages that include a certain number of free minutes (in Vodafone's case) or a certain amount of waived costs (in Cellnet's). They also provide per-second billing, though not in every tariff. According to the newsletter *Mobile Communications*, Vodafone, Cellnet, One2One and Orange have average monthly revenues per customer of £39, £35, £35 and £37 respectively.

In addition, "There are now more options for low-usage customers," says Keith Joseph, a senior consultant at research firm Ovum. These are packages designed for people who only need a mobile occasional-



ly, such as when their car breaks down. They have a low-monthly fee, but higher call costs.

Recently, Vodafone introduced a new kind of low-usage package: a pre-paid card. These cards can be bought at Post Offices and Vodafone has sold around 4,000 of them. For users, pre-paid cards mean they can control their spend-

ing. For Vodafone, the cards mean that it can take on customers with low credit-ratings without risk.

However, call charges are not the only issue in the mobile market. Two factors distort the market: handset prices and features. Mobile phones can cost around £200 to make, but prices are often subsidised. So a basic phone can be had

for £10-£50 and a very good phone for £75-£100. Low handset prices are usually tied in to an airtime package. In the long term, the real cost to the user will be the cost of calls and monthly charges.

Only Vodafone and Cellnet offer mobile services that conform to the Global System for Mobile (GSM) digital standard, that can be used

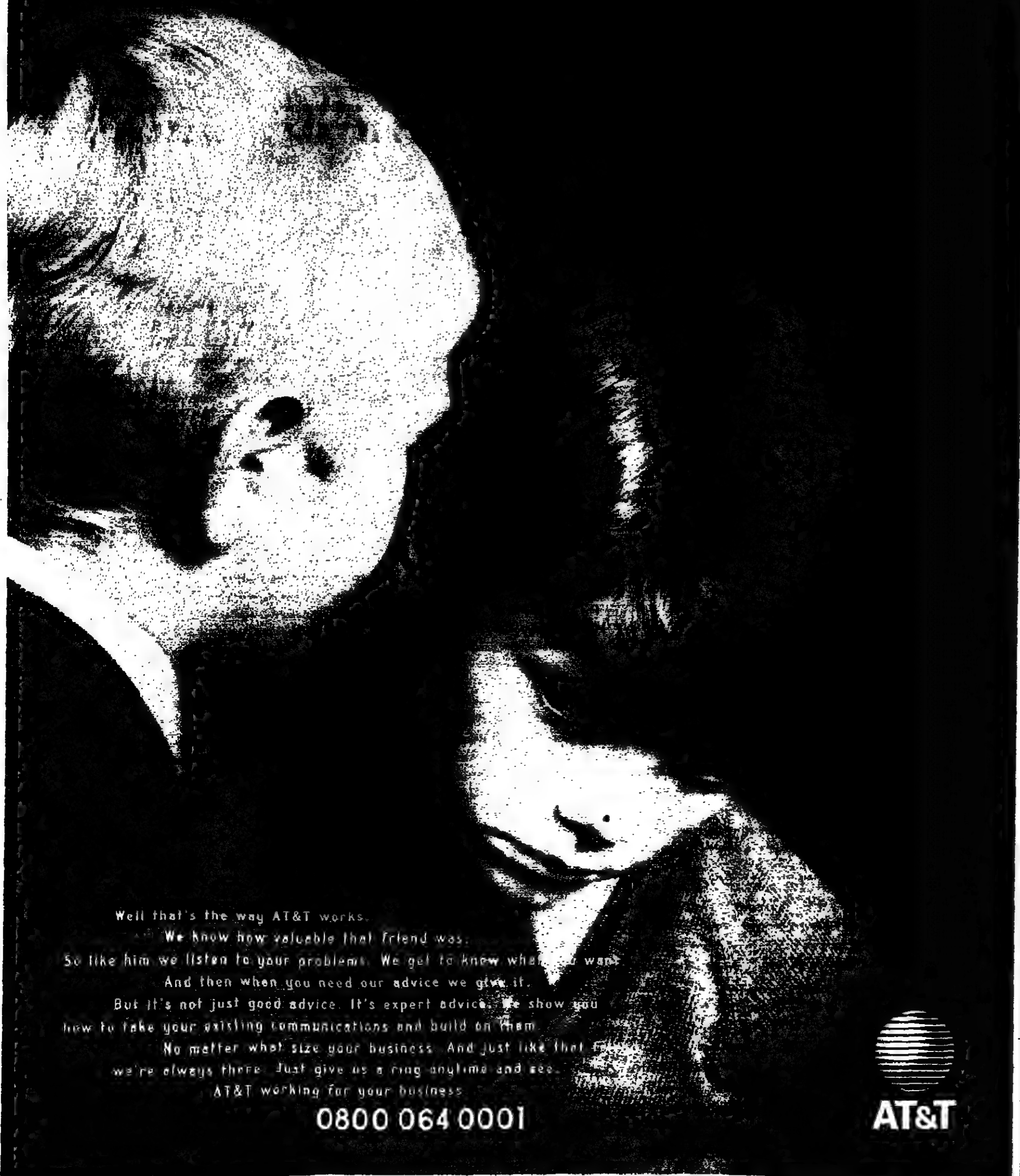
in most leading European cities. Value-added features include Vodafone's Teletext Fax — the ability to send 160-character faxes from some handsets via a paging-like short-message service.

Hutchison-owned Orange has a group caller tariff that saves a small business from needing a receptionist. Instead, incoming calls are routed in rotation between a group of mobile workers, such as architects or engineers.

Mobile prices have come down by more than 10 per cent in the latest round of price cuts. One mobile solution, which is more affordable is paging. Pagers are enjoying a revival, particularly after the introduction of "caller pays paging" (CPP).

Under caller pays paging, the user pays a one-off charge to buy the pager. But callers must pay a premium to contact it. Calls to a CPP pager usually work out at 25 pence a call or 35 pence a call, depending on the pager. Mr Joseph says: "Paging has done well in countries such as the United States where you have to pay to receive cellular calls. You can avoid heavy charges by carrying a pager and only using your mobile to reply to people you want to speak to urgently."

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Second Industrial Revolution is the tip of the iceberg

It is a cliché that we're now in a second industrial revolution based on communications. New industries are emerging based on information — on pictures, words and moving images and on the billions of bits of data that make up our increasingly electronic economies.

The first industrial revolution, though, was for all to see and, as steam and steel crawled across our landscapes, the change was evident. The impact of the communications revolution has been far more subtle, hidden behind jargon and clumsy acronyms. Or at least it was, until recently.

Al Gore, American Vice-President, was probably the first to bring the public's attention to what was happening. In 1992, he used the term "information superhighway" to describe the growing web of networks, computers, databases and consumer electronics that would underpin the economy to 2,000 and beyond.

Next, driven by falling PC costs and ever more powerful software applications, came the Internet explosion. Add in the break-up of the old telecoms monopolies around the world, bringing choice to customers, with the United

Kingdom very much in the vanguard, and the first parts of the technological iceberg had begun to emerge from below the surface into everyday life.

The information superhighway idea has captured the imagination of the business world as a new frontier that can be owned, marketed and sold. It's also captured the imagination of a public ever hungry for new stimulation and entertainment. But what's behind all the hype from the digital gurus and messiahs?

The physical capacity of any communication medium — copper cable, radio waves or laser light — to carry information is defined as its bandwidth. Many of us are now familiar with modems where data from our computers can be sent and received at so many thousand bits per second (kilobits/s). That speed is ultimately limited by the bandwidth of the copper telephone line that we use.

The higher the frequency of the signal that can be sent over these media, the greater the amount of information that can be transmitted in a set time. This is why we use high frequency radio to send television pictures and lower frequencies to send just speech and music.

Our urge to communicate ever greater amounts of information even faster led to experiments in the 1950s that transmitted microwaves down pipes. If it hadn't been for advances in fibre optics, we would now probably have retrained plumbers working as Local Area Network installers.

Fortunately, by the end of that decade and the start of the 1960s, the first lasers were appearing, offering even higher frequencies than radio waves. At the same time, fibre optics had been developed for

remote inspection in surgery and engineering.

In 1966, two researchers working at Nortel's Advanced Technology Centre, then known as STL, in Harlow, wrote a scientific paper theorising that lasers could send data over optical fibres. Three years later, the company had demonstrated the transmission of 100,000,000 light pulses per second (a rate of 100 megabits/s — standard speed over many office Local Area Networks now) over a single fibre.

From this, the technology has progressed in leaps and bounds, narrowing the gap in capacity and speed that we have seen with the PC. With techniques and raw elements worthy of a medieval alchemist, silicon is being transformed into products that make our traditional copper-based networks look as wasteful of energy and raw materials as early steam engines.

The world's first true fibre optic communications link was installed by BT between Hitchin and Stevenage in 1977. Now, on land and under the oceans, optical fibres are carrying massive amounts of data. The latest standard for communications links is set at

ten gigabits per second (a gigabit is one thousand million bits) and industry research is under way to raise these speeds to 1,000 gigabits per second and beyond. American

current peak telephone traffic — over 35 million voice calls — could one day be carried on just two optical fibres.

With the superhighway travelling at such speeds, getting information on and off it in the right place and at the right time has demanded new solutions from the network engineers. The old copper networks, having grown organically over time, used a technique called PDH (Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy) to interweave, pick up and drop off all the data travelling over the network. Clumsy and inefficient in hindsight and requiring a large workforce of engineers to maintain and control them, PDH systems are now being replaced by SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) networks.

Synchronised by a central time signal from an atomic clock, computer data and digitised speech and video flow around the fibre optic rings that now surround our cities, travelling in and out to business and domestic users. When a new circuit is needed, an operator many miles away can configure it using a few computer keystrokes.

When the inevitable JCB strikes a cable, the network automatically reconfigures itself without the subscribers being aware of any interference. For the operator, this means higher reliability and a smaller workforce. For the communications user, it means fewer faults and, eventually, lower costs.

AARON LEWIS

Job prospects in the telecoms industry are a mixed bag with some skills in demand and others declining fast. Tony Dawe reports

Drive carefully on the career superhighway

The prospects for a career in the telecommunications industry might appear brighter than ever today with new research forecasting that jobs in this market will grow by 13 per cent in the next five years.

Underlining the message, BT will launch a new site on the Internet this week to help the company to recruit graduates. It is looking for 750 in the next year and promises a £16,000 starting salary, summer London weighting, many benefits and a personal development plan to help recruits to reach top posts.

For those already established in the industry, headhunters are offering ever more attractive packages. Peter Lloyd of PA Consulting, one of the country's leading consultancy firms, says: "Information technology accounts for a third of our business. Companies recognise that they cannot survive without information technology and telecommunications and that it plays a vital part in their development."

But the good news must be tempered with what is happening in the industry. While jobs in some

areas are booming, work in others is disappearing. Some companies are struggling to find people with suitable technical skills, others are laying off staff in large numbers. BP, for example, is recruiting graduates, but it is letting go 5,000 other employees this year, especially engineers, operators and clerical workers.

Telecommunications staff in leading companies, such as banks and retail firms, are also falling victim to the trend of outsourcing. A few years ago, all the big companies had their own large information technology departments, but they have now been downsized — reduced in terms of the type of equipment and number of staff employed — and replaced by contractors.

"Jobs for life are no longer guaranteed," says David Harrington, managing director of the Telecommunications Managers Association (TMA). "With the convergence of new technologies, companies are looking to save money

by cutting jobs. In-house training schemes are among the first to go. The bottom line for people in the industry is self-managed careers."

Mr Lloyd agrees: "The challenge for staff in this field is that they must be capable of taking on new responsibilities if the roles they have been fulfilling are overtaken. But where should people looking for a career in the industry start? According to the current edition of the Penguin Careers Guide, most professionals in this field now work with users or consultants installing, programming, analysing and designing systems, controlling, managing, setting up project teams and specialist departments; liaising with other staff and training existing staff to use systems."

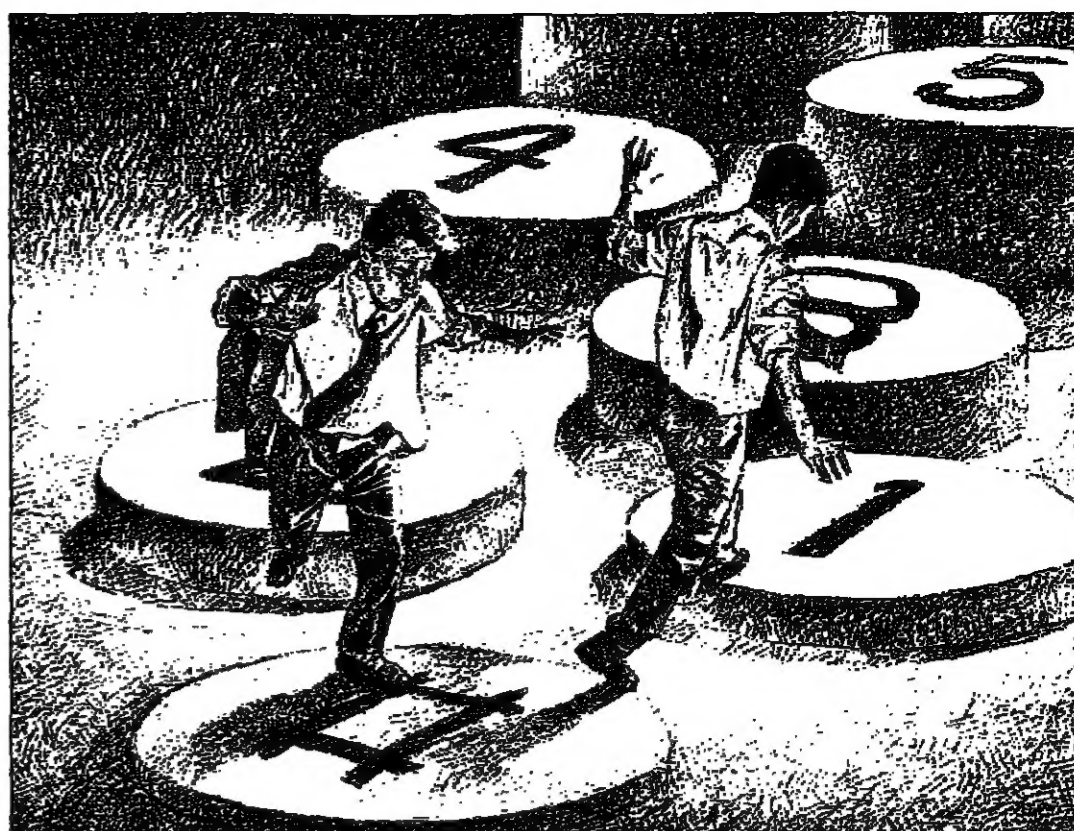
The guide forecasts that "systems programmers, systems analysts and designers and well-qualified applications programmers are all likely to be in demand for the rest of this century, but the need for operators and less skilled programmers is dwindling fast as these

tasks are increasingly performed by non-specialist staff."

As BT is forced to fight increasingly hard to maintain a dominant position in the industry, the company will have particular need for innovative software engineers and marketing staff. Its new Web page also indicates that it is looking for graduates who can take on financial, personal and business management.

The problem facing communications technology manufacturers and users is a huge skills shortage not seen for a decade. The wide potential of new technologies and constant customer drive for cost efficiency and business benefits creates a worrying scenario of high demand and low supply in the specialist skills arena.

Communications specialists have an ever increasing need to fully understand the areas in which they operate and how these sectors will develop in the future. To tackle these issues, TMA Ventures, the business arm of the TMA, has joined forces with NEX-



US Information Technology to launch a communications skills fair to be held in London next February.

"It will address all of these issues and help people in the industry to understand the skills they need to succeed in a world of changing

technology," says Terry Chellew, TMA Ventures managing director.

The TMA is also playing its part in helping members combat constant change on a regular basis and has appointed its first educational services manager, David Cogan, who takes up his duties this week.

His task is to implement a continuing professional development programme. Courses will run for up to five years with regular assessments and targets and people will come out with a degree or national vocational qualification at a high level.

Technological Silk Roads of the 20th century

Telecoms used to be the poor relation of the information technology sector, compared to the entrepreneurial, aggressive world of computers. The telecoms manager was an often unappreciated chap, inhabiting a world of switchboards, extensions and wires that was distinctly low-tech compared to the acolytes of the air-conditioned computer rooms.

The growth of networking has changed this. Information and knowledge are recognised as replacing capital, raw materials and energy as wealth creating assets. Managing the flow of information around a company — making sure that it reaches the right people at the right time — is now of vital strategic importance. The TMA conference has become filled with power-dressed executives, arguing about the savings to be made in moving the data entry department to Sri Lanka. The virtual company starts here.

Communications — once a comparatively straightforward business — has become incredibly complex in just a few years. By its very nature it is largely invisible and amorphous. It is also truly international in scope. The networking industry draws together many previously separate groups, each with their own world view, each with their own agenda, each with their own preconceptions.

We have the telecom and network operators and their equipment suppliers; we have the consumer electronics industry; we have broadcasters, information and entertainment providers; the software and hardware IT sector; and, inevitably, the lawyers and politicians. Further out on the fringes, we also have the hackers, the copyright pirates, cyberpunks and cypherpunks.

As this information society reaches into every corner of the world, social, economic, political and personal environments change too. Speed of communications, while a benefit for some, is a deeply destabilising force for others. Global communications enable international corporations to be responsible to no one — the emerging rootless virtual company that outsources everything and is primarily composed of knowledge workers, operating across different time zones.

Alternatively, public access to sophisticated communications creates an opportunity for consumer, environmental and political groups to network together, presenting a united front across many countries, exchanging information and co-ordinating protest.

If the old Silk Roads began by carrying both spices and syphilis to the West, what new possibilities and perils are starting to circulate in the network of networks?

With the new technologies available to us, the traditional commercial hierarchy breaks down into a far more fluid, faster moving system. This process, under current condi-

tions, is unstoppable and, as international commercial pressures and the globalisation of markets increases, it can only accelerate.

But what will replace it? Traditional industries were like dinosaurs — slow-moving, with brains remote from tails and limbs. The development of the information and knowledge-based economy creates a nervous system for a new order, based on advanced computer and communications techniques, giving small, flexible work groups a power and potential autonomy that reflects the evolution of our early mammalian ancestors. Speed, agility and high-order information processing, achievable through technologies such as ATM, SDHG, and mobile communications, will be the criteria for success over the coming decades. The fastest predator will win.

But, if we are to extend our electronic boundaries, how will we deal with the challenge this places on our own identities? Balancing the global trend to integration and federalism, we can also see around us a growing culture of tribalism and separatism that, ironically, is also starting to use information technology to spread its message. Fundamentalist groups of all persuasions, extreme political organisations, organised crime — all these have entry to the networks as well as access to advanced cryptographic techniques that will keep their information secret.

Another immense potential danger also faces us. As we become more and more dependent on our networks, so our vulnerability to any disruption in service also increases. Much is made of the threat of terrorists getting their hands on nuclear weapons. Physical destruction though has become unnecessary. The mere act of detonating a nuclear device miles up in the atmosphere would set off an electromagnetic pulse that would wipe every microchip in a city below. Like an advanced aircraft, the "fly-by-wire" economy is inherently unstable.

Can we make sense of the changes ahead of us? Will we become more confused, more isolated or will the power of communications create new communities, new ways of living and working? As the world grows increasingly crowded, short of resources and polluted, it is likely that many organisations will use the power of networks to keep or increase control. It may also be likely that many will retreat behind their screens, minimising contact with an external world grown more threatening and unstable.

We have come a long way since those first fateful words of Alexander Graham Bell, "Watson, come here." The next few steps our industry takes will affect the whole world.

ALUN LEWIS



France Telecom, a leading force in telecommunications

France Telecom is the world's fourth largest telecommunications operator, with consolidated revenues of \$29,6 billion in 1995.

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In touch with your future

 France Telecom

Three goals from Coyne fire Baum's Bullets



A BRACE of Scottish-based players has propelled a Bury resident to the weekly £250 prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game. Mr R. Baum, with his team Baum's Bullets, scored an impressive 48 points, assisted in no small measure by the performances of Gilles Rousset, the Heart of Midlothian goalkeeper, who did not concede a goal in two games, and Tommy Coyne, who scored a hat-trick for Motherwell on Saturday.

In the overall race for £50,000, John Hunt, from Taunton, remains the leader with 265 points. Mr Hunt continues to juggle the demands of his multitalented team and still keep four of them in the top ten. The D Team leads, with the H Team only seven points behind. What, one might ask, has happened to the A Team? Mr Baum's team is:

Goalkeeper
G Rousset (Hearts)

Full backs
J Dicks (West Ham)
C Wilson (Tottenham)

Central defenders
D May (Manchester Utd)
N Ruddock (Liverpool)

Midfield players
D Beckham (Manchester Utd)
P Grant (Celtic)
B Laudrup (Rangers)
C Robertson (Dunfermline)

Strikers
T Coyne (Motherwell)
C Sutton (Blackburn)

Manager
R Aitken (Aberdeen)



Ruddock's goal for Liverpool against Leeds United makes him one of the most valuable defenders of the week.



If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which allows you to

change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 886 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All *Interactive Team Football* transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1995-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED	
Goalkeeper	4pts
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts
Saves penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Saves goal	1pt
Midfield player	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt
Saves goal	2pts

POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	2pts
Concedes goal	2pts
Full back/Central defender	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt
All players	3pts
Sent off	3pts

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match



EXCLUSIVE ITF COMPETITION THE TIMES

12 pairs of Premier League tickets to be won plus lunch at Football Football

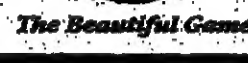
The *Times* Interactive Team Football and the fashionable London restaurant for sporting fans, Football Football, are offering a fabulous prize exclusive to entrants of our highly successful ITF.

You have the chance to win a buffet lunch and Christmas drink for two at Football Football plus two tickets to see Tottenham play Sheffield Wednesday. The match at White Hart Lane is on Saturday, December 21. Pairs of tickets are worth £40. We have 12 prizes to be won by ITF entrants.

Football Football, situated in the heart of London's West End, is a uniquely themed family restaurant, decorated with fascinating football memorabilia, state-of-the-art special effects and coverage from magic moments past and present on giant video screens.

The lively restaurant where you eat in a fun and informal atmosphere, is endorsed by the PFA and FIFA. Opened just nine months ago, Football Football has established itself as one of the places to visit in the capital.

For information about Football Football call 0171-930 9970.



The Beautiful Game



HOW TO ENTER

To enter (only players of *The Times* ITF game) send your name, your ITF team name, ITF pin number and the answer to the question below, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: *The Times* Football Football Comp, 30 Bourne St, London EC8R 4NG. Closing date: Friday, November 29, 1996. Winners will be drawn at random. Against which country did England play their first match in Euro 96?

CHANGING TIMES

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 886 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 0044 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, two midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call, if you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

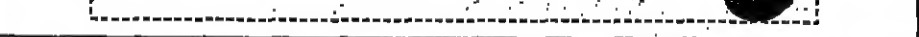
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, two midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.



THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

There are no transfers in ITF this week

LOANED PLAYERS

O Wessell (Derby to Manchester City, four weeks); B Angot (Sunderland to Stockport, one week); T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, two weeks); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, four weeks); F Bennett (Southampton to Shrewsbury, one week); C Beckman (Middlesbrough to Bristol City, two weeks); S Davies (Manchester United to Huddersfield, two weeks); M Jackson (Gillingham to Birmingham, two weeks); J Kavanagh (Derby to Wycombe, two weeks); J Cundy (Tottenham to Ipswich, three weeks); R Ferdinand (West Ham to Bournemouth, three weeks); J Sheridan (Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton, four weeks)

Loan periods subject to fluctuation

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	265
2	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	258
3	Styford	(A Burton)	255
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	253
5	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	252
6	James Boys Thos	(M Jones)	248
7	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	246
8	Schles For Goals	(K Booth)	243
9	Gangsters	(A Lone)	243
10	Rigg's Roarers	(A Rigg)	239
11	A2	(P Farhall)	238
12	Storm	(P Miles)	237
13	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	237
14	Purple Rain	(J Gohli)	236
15	Orvieto Classico	(B Goshaw)	235
16	NST Monstrosity	(J Staszewicz)	235
17	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	235
18	Raj Is Back To Kill	(G Gohli)	234
19	James Boys 8	(M Jones)	232
20	PJ Thistle	(P Newbould)	232
21	Raj Is Back To Kill	(G Gohli)	231
22	I	(M Corless)	231
23	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	231
24	Down Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	230
25	Tully's Tops	(G P Dolan)	227
26	Noah's Ark	(V Cox)	227
27	Daggers	(J Hunt)	227
28	John Hunt Taunton C	(P Smiley)	226
29	Polly's Pride	(M Jones)	226
30	Aldersville Villa	(J Roebuck)	226
31	Le Bouffesters	(B Howes)	226
32	Brain's Team	(T Feehily)	225
33	Plastic Filers 10	(P M Handley)	225
34	Rosina Raiders	(S A Godfrey)	225
35	God's Abounders 2	(J Hunt)	225
36	John Hunt Taunton G	(C C Vickers)	225
37	The Dansters	(B McGivern)	224
38	Beeston Celtic	(J Swirles)	223
39	JS August Monthly 1	(B Elson)	222
40	Redinapp's Rovers	(A Brown)	222
41	Nobby 4	(A Bangs)	221
42	Art's Artists	(J Brown)	221
43	Nobby 20	(N Broom)	220
44	Nomads	(S Shipley)	220
45	Set Against Cys	(A Lone)	220
46	Team C	(N Eneigh)	219
47	Clover Vale	(S Jones)	219
48	Bumblers 30	(M Ward)	219
49	Inter The Stand	(J Swirles)	219
50	JS August Monthly 2	(M Skippen)	219
51	AC Fantasy FC	(J Longton)	219
52	Jane's Giants	(M Larcombe)	219
53	Subwith Utd 3	(D Ritchie)	219
54	Abu's Revenge	(A Boyland)	219
55	AB 4	(L A Tomlinson)	219
56	Isomniaca	(R Gohli)	218
57	Raj Is Back To Kill	(A Daye)	218
58	Toto Calcio	(L Michaelis)	218
59	Lesley's Legmen	(J Brown)	218
60	Nobby 5	(P Sutton)	217
61	CT Utd	(M O'Brien)	217
62	Flying Foreigners	(G Thomas)	217
63	G Money FC	(G Samuel)	217
64	Layton's Lions 7	(S Layton)	216
65	1970 Is FC	(J Ross)	216
66	Sky Times 10	(L McCullough)	216
67	Dynamo Hills	(S Miller)	216
68	Nobby	(J Brown)	216
69	Athletic Storm	(P Mills)	215

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF checkline on 0891 886 643

Outside UK: 0044 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
70	Pin Ups Two	(P Tustler)	215
71	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohli)	215
72	Porcelain Gods	(P Ryan)	215
73	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	215
74	Parade Audition	(P Hester)	215
75	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohli)	215
76	Animals	(L Clark)	215
77	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	215
78	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	214
79	Ace's High	(N Avery)	214
80	Howe Rovers 3	(M Goldard)	214
81	The Miracles	(D Booth)	214
82	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscall)	214
83	Mark's Magicians II	(M Kingston)	214
84	Expensive Failures	(S Harper)	214
85	A	(M Corless)	214
86	Alindir	(I Fyle)	214
87	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	214
88	Revolution To Test	(N Bowles)	214
89	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscall)	214
90	Central Athletic	(N Skipper)	214
91	Subwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	214
92	Johnny's Giants	(J Jones)	214
93	Le Boer And 2 Veg	(M Sawley)	214
94	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	214
95	Braybrook United	(P J Butler)	214
96	PJB Rovers	(C Scarlett)	214
97	Chom Chit 69	(J Clayton)	214
98	Jan 2	(T Baseran)	214
99	T 35	(K Browne)	214
100	Claremont Loyal	(B Fox)	214
101	Cannon's Hotshots	(D Cannon)	214
102	Arrogant FC	(F K Taylor)	214
103	Braybrook United	(G West)	214
104	Lynne's Lions	(L Horne)	214
105	Pacific All Stars	(T Leonard)	214
106	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	214
107	Xpat Missiles	(M Jackson)	214
108	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	214
109	E	(M Corless)	214

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
110	Fortuna Sandwich	(A J Frittle)	214
111	Daunted	(P Bailey)	214
112	The Red Devils	(K Booth)	214
113	Kanter's Cronies	(E D Kander)	214
114	The Passion	(W E Parker)	214
115	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohli)	214
116	Evermore On Justice F	(M Hix)	214
117	Barry's Team	(B Matthews)	214
118	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	214
119	TWFC 1	(T Webley)	214
120	The Luke Hansard XI	(M Kelley)	214
121	Junior Champions	(A Mathison)	214
122	Hopful Hotshots	(R Himmer)	214
123	Soccer Superstars	(J McGillion)	214
124	FC Big Hands	(A Martin)	214
125	The Tomsters	(H Kent)	214
126	No Midfield	(C C Vickers)	214
127	FC Pans	(J B Parkwood)	214
128	PT's Top Team	(J Mullock)	214
129	Jack's Nightmare	(T Tidmarsh)	214
130	Blue Brazil	(N J Lane)	214
131	Glens Win World Cup	(O Nicholls)	214
132	Philly Rangers	(F Geary)	214
133	United In Footy	(J Palmer)	214
134	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	214
135	Red Star Belgrade	(R Keenan)	214
136	Tahoyay	(G Davidson)	214
137	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	214
138	United In Footy	(O Alton)	214
139	James Boys Sky	(M Jones)	214
140	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	214
141	1st Ellet	(K J Burns)	214
142	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	214
143	Eric's Allsorts	(E Rousledge)	214
144	Sugagee	(S Birchfield)	214
145	James Boys One	(M L Jones)	214
146	Allee	(I Pigeon)	214
147	Team A	(J H Morrison)	214
148	Cavellers	(E Cowan)	214
149	Fendion United	(R Roddam)	214
150	Rod's Rovers	(B Roddam)	214
151	Smashing	(M A Kennedy)	214
152	Three Tabletoppers	(D Cook)	214
153	12 Angry Men	(P Broomehead)	214
154	Legs Eleven	(M McBride)	214
155	Mac's Monkeys	(M Baber)	214
156	ABC	(no name)	214
157	Pasta City	(no name)	214
158	Albion Harries XI	(M Leal)	214
159	The Right Stuff	(S Muller)	214
160	Northwood XI	(R J Ward)	214
161	Nonchalant APC 3	(S Wilson)	214
162	Glen Duffers	(R Brasher)	214
163	Shrine Mules	(G Jones)	214
164	West Brom The Best	(N Ong-Sang)	214
165	Scottish Pride	(Z Almond)	214
166	Ziggy's Boys	(M Siddons)	214
167	Ox95-ITF Champ	(M Wilson)	214
168	MIF Sports	(K J Burns)	214
169	Bow Utd	(K J Burns)	214
170	Whitcs	(A Atkinson)	214
171	Serve Super Stars	(J Seaman)	214
172	Inter The Whist	(M Ward)	214
173	D & A Warriors	(A Summers)	214
174	Alencia FC	(A Siffiano)	214
175	Real Ale Ripon	(C Blackshaw)	214
176	RKV 2	(C Vanezis)	214
177	Ball Watchers	(J Murray)	214
178	Zig Zag Zak 25	(J Zak)	214

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
179	Claret And Blue FC	(A J Rinfret)	206
180	(A Bourne)	(P Bailey)	206
181	Sarsaparilla	(K Booth)	206
182	Aldo Is Great	(E D Karnter)	206
183	Geatall	(W E Parker)	206
184	Nobby 22	(no name)	206
185	Nobby 34	(R Gohlf)	206
186	Pear-Shape FC	(H Hy)	206
187	Vital Overseas	(S Mathewson)	206
188	DJS 2	(J Brown)	206
189	AC Cambridge	(T Webbsay)	206
190	Manny's Mates	(M Kallay)	206
191	HOG Is Out Of Order	(A Murhabain)	206
192	Trouble Shooters	(R Rimmer)	206
193	Gauntlet FC	(J McGallion)	206
194	Jenny's Skates	(A Martin)	206
195	Ginger	(H Kerr)	206
196	Wesley's Wonders	(C C Vervest)	206
197	Oytrage 1	(J B Portwood)	206
198	Lucy's Lions	(J Mullock)	206
199	Wesley's Wonders	(T Tidmarsh)	206
200	Wesley's Wonders	(N J Lane)	206
201	Wesley's Wonders	(D Nicholls)	206
202	Wesley's Wonders	(F Geary)	206
203	Wesley's Wonders	(J Palmer)	206
204	Wesley's Wonders	(M Horan)	206
205	Wesley's Wonders	(R Keenan)	206
206	Wesley's Wonders	(G Davidsson)	206
207	Wesley's Wonders	(S Mingle)	206
208	Wesley's Wonders	(O Alfoni)	206
209	Wesley's Wonders	(M Jones)	206
210	Wesley's Wonders	(M Pack)	206
211	Wesley's Wonders	(K J Burns)	206
212	Wesley's Wonders	(J Brown)	206
213	Wesley's Wonders	(E Routledge)	206
214	Wesley's Wonders	(S Birchfield)	206
215	Wesley's Wonders	(M L Jones)	206
216	Wesley's Wonders	(I Pigeon)	206
217	Wesley's Wonders	(A Lone)	206
218	Wesley's Wonders	(J H Morrison)	206
219	Wesley's Wonders	(E Cowan)	206
220	Wesley's Wonders	(B Roddham)	206
221	Wesley's Wonders	(K Mack)	206
222	Wesley's Wonders	(M A Kennedy)	206
223	Wesley's Wonders	(D Cook)	206
224	Wesley's Wonders	(P Broomhead)	206
225	Wesley's Wonders	(M McBride)	206
226	Wesley's Wonders	(M Baber)	206
227	Wesley's Wonders	(no name)	206
228	Wesley's Wonders	(A Hynes)	206
229	Wesley's Wonders	(M Lask)	206
230	Wesley's Wonders	(S Mulkeney)	206
231	Wesley's Wonders	(R J Ward)	206
232	Wesley's Wonders	(S Wilson)	206
233	Wesley's Wonders	(H Brazner)	206
234	Wesley's Wonders	(G Jones)	206
235	Wesley's Wonders	(N Ong-Sang)	206
236	Wesley's Wonders	(Z Ahmed)	206
237	Wesley's Wonders	(M Sidden)	206
238	Wesley's Wonders	(M Wilson)	206
239	Wesley's Wonders	(K J Burns)	206
240	Wesley's Wonders	(G Atkinson)	206
241	Wesley's Wonders	(J Seaman)	206
242	Wesley's Wonders	(M Ward)	206
243	Wesley's Wonders	(A Savarwa)	206
244	Wesley's Wonders	(A Sfilano)	206
245	Wesley's Wonders	(C Blackshaw)	206
246	Wesley's Wonders	(C Venezis)	206
247	Wesley's Wonders	(J Murray)	206

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Coyne, left, of Motherwell, was the outstanding ITF striker of this week. But did you select him in your team?

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -3	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	-5 +1	
10201	D Seaton	Arsenal	5.00	-1+27	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 0	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	0.75	0 -8	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +1	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-8 +5	
10402	S Ghani	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1 -14	
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 0	
10601	D Kerr	Celtic	3.50	0 -1	
10602	K Hinchcock	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10	
10701	S Ogilvie	Coventry City	2.00	0 -20	
10702	J Folan	Coventry City	1.50	-3 -10	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	0.50	0 0	
10802	R Hogg	Derby County	1.00	-1 -5	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4	
10902	L Kay	Dundee United	0.50	-5 -6	
11001	T Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0 -18	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-1 +2	
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	-1 +2	
11201	G Rouse	Everton	2.00	-1 +1	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+10 -6	
11401	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 -25	
11501	M Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0 0	
11502	N Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
11503	N Martin	Leeds United	2.50	-3 -11	
11601	K Poole	Leeds United	1.00	0 -3	
11602	K Kellar	Leeds United	1.00	-1 -5	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	+5+10	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+5 -8	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +5	
11901	G Walsh	Manchester United	1.50	-3 -3	
11902	A Miller	Manchester United	1.50	-3 -3	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-23 -23	
12101	S Hogg	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -3	
12102	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	-1 +4	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -21	
12202	A Fofis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0	
12301	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0	
12302	S Thompson	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0 -20	
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	+1+18	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 -9	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -10	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2	
12603	C Woods	Southampton	1.50	-13 -13	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-2 -7	
12801	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9	
12802	T Wright	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5+20	
12901	L Mulcahy	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	-1 -4	
12902	S Maitland	West Ham United	0.50	0 +5	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-3 +4	
13002	P Haad	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	-1 +8	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-1+20	
20202	S Merson	Arsenal	3.00	-1+18	
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0+10	
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	-2+17	
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0 0	
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0 0	
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	-1+12	
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 -2	
20402	G Le Sauc	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 +3	
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-2 -2	
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +2	
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1 +8	
20502	T McInerney	Celtic	3.00	0 +1	
20601	D Petruscu	Chelsea	3.00	+3 +8	
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3	
20603	T Phelan	Chelsea	2.00	0 0	
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	0 +5	
20701	C Curran	Coventry City	1.00	-1 -1	
20702	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0 -2	
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0 +4	
20704	R Gendron	Coventry City	1.50	0 -2	
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 +5	
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +2	
20803	J Kavanagh	Derby County	0.25	0 0	
20804	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	0 +4	
20901	M Phelps	Dundee United	1.00	-3 +9	
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	-2 +4	
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 0	
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -6	
21002	A Todd	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5	
21101	M Hogg	Everton	2.50	0 0	
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0 +8	
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0+11	
21104	G Jackson	Everton	1.00	0 0	
21201	G Leach	Hibernian	2.00	0 0	
21202	N Poynton	Hibernian	1.00	+4 -1	
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	+3 +6	
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	+4+12	
21402	G McPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	-3 -13	
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	-1 0	
21502	A Dorog	Leeds United	2.50	0 0	
21503	P Beesley	Leeds United	0.50	0 +7	
21601	M Whitby	Leeds United	0.50	0 +7	
21602	S Green	Leeds United	0.50	0 +7	
21603	N Lewis	Leeds United	0.50	0 0	
21604	F Roling	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0 0	
21702	S Hargreaves	Liverpool	1.50	0 +18	
21703	S I Bjornneby	Liverpool	0.25	0 0	
21704	P Charnock	Liverpool	4.00	0+13	
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	3.00	+4 +9	
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+4 0	
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+4 0	
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	-1 -8	
21902	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 0	
21903	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 0	
21904	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0 0	
22002	S Whitham	Motherwell	0.50	0 +2	
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0 -1	
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0+10	
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0 0	
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0 +7	
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 -6	
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 +2	
22203	A Haslam	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 +1	
22204	N Jones	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 -7	
22301	P Boner	Raith Rovers	0.50	0 -5	
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	2.50	+4 +18	
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.00	0 0	
22402	J Brown	Rangers	1.50	0 +4	
22501	I Nott	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +8	
22502	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0 -5	
22503	S Mico	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0 +2	
22504	D Stankovic	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0	
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 -2	
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	0 -6	
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0 +4	
22603	S Charlton	Sunderland	0.50	-1+11	
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	-2 -7	
22702	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	-1 -1	
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0	
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1+23	
22803	J Edmunds	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0	
22804	D Kerr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+3 +3	
22805	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	-1 +7	
22901	T Dicks	West Ham United	1.00	0 0	
22902	T Bracken	West Ham United	1.00	+2 -1	
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0 0	
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	0.50	0 0	
22905	K Brown	West Ham United	1.50	0 +9	
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75	-1 0	
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	-1 +9	
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0	
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	-1+13	
23005	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	-1+13	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	1.50	-1 -3	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	4.00	0+15	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	-1+20	
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0+21	
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.00	0 +9	
30204	A Leighton	Arsenal	1.00	0 0	
30205	A Marshall	Arsenal	3.50	-2+18	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	-2+18	
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	1.00	-2 +9	
30303	C Tilar	Aston Villa	1.00	-2 +9	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
30305	R Schmechel	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +1	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	-1 +2	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 -3	
30404	N Marner	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 +2	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	-1+12	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	0 +3	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	-1+10	
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	0 0	
30601	M Doherty	Chelsea	2.50	0 -3	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0+16	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0 0	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0 +6	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0+10	
30607	J Keldbjerg	Chelsea	0.50	0 0	
30701	L Daish	Coventry City	2.00	-1 +4	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-1 +2	
30801	I Stiles	Derby County	2.50	0 -1	
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0 0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0 +2	
30804	M Carbin	Derby County	0.50	0 0	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	-2 +7	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	-1 -4	
31002	I Den Bieman	Dunfermline	2.50	0+11	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0 +5	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0+11	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0+11	
31201	D McPherson	Hibernian	1.00	+4 +8	
31202	P Ritchie	Hibernian	1.00	+8+13	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0 -4	
31302	B Welch	Hibernian	0.75	0 +9	
31401	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	+4 +7	
31402	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	-2 -5	
31403	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	-3 -4	
31501	D Wetherill	Leeds United	2.50	0 +7	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +2	
31503	L Radaba	Leeds United	1.00	-2 -4	
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0 0	
31601	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0 +4	
31602	J Watts	Leeds United	1.00	0+12	
31603	P Kinsella	Leeds United	0.50	0 0	
31604	S Prior	Leeds United	1.00	0 +8	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0+10	
31702	J Scallan	Liverpool	3.50	0 0	
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	+3+12	
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	+7 +7	
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	+4+14	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	0 +3	
31802	M May	Manchester United	3.00	0 +7	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	+3+12	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -9	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2 -6	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1 -10	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 -4	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	-3 -2	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0+11	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0 +3	
32102	S Howie	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0+12	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0 -5	
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -1	
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 0	
32301	R Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	-4 -19	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	+3+24	
32402	A McLean	Rangers	3.50	0 0	
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	+4+16	
32404	G Peiric	Rangers	2.50	+4+16	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 +2	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +5	
32503	B Linington	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0 0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-6 -10	
32602	A Nelson	Southampton	0.50	0 +1	
32603	C Dryden	Southampton	0.50	-6 -5	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.50	-6 -9	
32701	U van Gobel	Sunderland	1.00	-2+10	
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	-1+10	
32703	R Hall	Sunderland	0.12	0+12	
32801	C Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+2+22	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4+20	
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0	
32804	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0	
32805	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0	
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 -3	
32901	S Ellis	West Ham United	2.50	-1 -3	
32902	C Cooper	West Ham United	1.50	0 +3	
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0 -2	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0 0	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0 0	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	1.50	0+12	
33005	M Aliff	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +2	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0 0	

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